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Impeached Brazil president suspended

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — President Fernando Collor de Mello, the first leader in Brazilian history to be impeached, was suspended Friday for six months pending his Senate trial for corruption. Mr. Collor was replaced by Vice President Itamar Franco. The lower house of congress on Tuesday impeached Mr. Collor, accusing him of receiving millions of dollars from a slush fund run by his 1989 campaign treasurer. Mr. Collor says he is innocent. If the senate, as expected, finds him guilty, Mr. Franco will serve out his term, which ends in 1995. Sen. Dirceu Carneiro formally notified Mr. Collor of his suspension in a nationally televised meeting Friday. Onlookers applauded and chanted "Brazil" as Mr. Carneiro crossed the street from the senate to the white marble presidential Palácio do Planalto, surrounded by a crowd of reporters. The president, looking somber, waited in his office accompanied by his wife Rosane and his cabinet, which was exonerated. Mr. Franco was to name a new cabinet later Friday.

Pound, shares slide in European markets

LONDON (R) — Shares tumbled and the pound skidded to new lows against the mark on disappointment that the Bundesbank decided Friday not to cut German interest rates. The decision, made at a regular meeting of the German central bank's council, dashed hopes that the Bundesbank would cut rates to ease strains in the European monetary system and boost economic recovery at home. Bundesbank President Helmut Schlesinger added to the gloom by saying that the central bank aimed to keep its discount and lombard rates steady for the "time being." He also said that German inflation, against which high interest rates are being used as the main weapon, was still unsatisfactory. Although the decision had been widely expected, the pound skidded to a new low against the mark to end in Europe at 2.4395 marks, down more than four pence from Thursday's close. It is now more than 17 per cent below its old central rate in Europe's exchange rate mechanism (ERM) of 2.93 marks.

PLO says Syria and Israel could make interim deals

Dumas seen trying to set up Assad-Rabin summit

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is proposing Damascus make only interim agreements with Israel until the future of the West Bank and Gaza is settled. The PLO wants Syria to keep to an Arab agreement that no Arab party will sign a treaty before the others are ready, said a senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. "At the end, the Arabs should reach the finishing line together. They have to sign peace treaties with Israel together," said Nabil Shaath told Reuters in an interview at his home in Cairo Thursday night. "Syria can implement a lot of short-term interim agreements with Israel and reach accords but not turn them into full peace treaties," added Dr. Shaath, one of the main architects of the PLO's peace policy. Diplomats said Dr. Shaath's approach was a pragmatic compromise to avoid antagonising Damascus and driving it to go it alone. "According to the rules of the peace process, the Palestinians will start two years of talks on the final status talks of the Israeli-



Relatives of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails occupied Jerusalem in support of the prisoners' hunger strike

Israelis kill Palestinian boy

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli border police Friday fatally shot a 15-year-old Palestinian after the troops were alerted with stones during a raid in the occupied West Bank, the army said. It said the paramilitary police fired in the air as a warning after fleeing stone throwers refused orders to halt in the village of Sfir, near Hebron. The victim, Anwar Shafik Mattar, was shot in the stomach, as army statement said. According to army orders, soldiers can fire to halt fleeing suspects, but are required to shoot first in the air as a warning and then at suspects' legs if they continue to run away. Residents tried to evacuate Mattar in a taxi, but the troops halted the vehicle so Mattar could be treated on the spot by an army doctor, who declared the youth dead, the army said. Palestinian reporters quoted witnesses as saying the halting of the taxi led to more than an hour's delay in Mattar receiving treatment. Mattar's death brought to 99 the number of Arabs killed by Israelis in the nearly five-year Palestinian uprising. Some 650 Palestinians have been killed by fellow Arabs, most as suspected collaborators, and 101 Israelis have been slain in the violence. Also Friday, paramilitary border police shot and injured an armed Arab in the Israeli town of Um al Fahm, police said. The case was unusual since the victim was not a Palestinian but an Israeli Arab citizen, according to a police statement. Israel Radio reported that the man failed to obey police orders to halt, but it was unclear why troops were seeking him. A Palestinian youth died of gunshot wounds on Thursday, apparently sustained when an Israeli army patrol opened fire after a firebomb landed near them in the occupied West Bank, an army statement said. Ramez Abdul Afu Hasan, 17, was brought to Al-Imhad hospital in the West Bank town of Jenin dead from gunshot wounds shortly after the firebomb attack on soldiers patrolling the nearby village of Anza, the army statement said. No Israelis were wounded in the firebomb attack and no one was arrested, the army added. In occupied Jerusalem, about 300 relatives of Palestinian prisoners marched in support of an inmate hunger strike, now in its fifth day.

Jordan calls for total halt to Israeli settlements

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Kamal Abu Jaber called on Israel on Thursday to halt the building of all settlements in the occupied territories, including those Israel calls "security" settlements. "It is a strange irony that while the parties to the (Arab-Israeli) conflict are negotiating on the basis of international legality, Israel continues its illegal practices, first and foremost of which is the building of new settlements and the beeping up of existing ones," Dr. Abu Jaber said in a speech to the general assembly. Jordan, along with the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon, has been holding peace talks with Israel for almost a year. The foreign minister said that while Israel's new government had taken certain seemingly positive actions regarding the occupied territories these were inadequate. "We and the world with us are still waiting for Israel to translate its words into deeds. The classification of settlements into security and political settlements is a fragmentation of the principle of legality which is indivisible," said Dr. Abu Jaber. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who took office after elections in June, has halted the establishment of what he calls political settlements in the occupied territories but has not ruled out settlements based on security considerations. Dr. Abu Jaber said Israel's release of some Palestinian prisoners while thousands of others remained in jail "will not alter the degree of repression to which the Palestinian people are being subjected." "If the Israeli government truly wishes to be serious in its desire to achieve peace and to prove its goodwill, it has to commit itself to the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the occupied territories and to completely halt the building of settlements, all settlements." The foreign minister also called for action to alleviate the plight of the Iraqi people, subject to staff U.N. sanctions since Baghdad.

Israeli Arab delegation in Jordan on week-long visit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — A group of Israeli Arabs arrived here Friday for a week-long visit during which they will be received by His Majesty King Hussein and meet with Jordanian leaders in what the delegation leader described as a reaffirmation of "brotherly ties." "We are here to convey our congratulations to His Majesty on his successful surgery and safe return home," said Ibrahim Nimr Hussein, mayor of the town of Shafa Amr and leader of the 12-member delegation of Islamic judges, mayors, local council chiefs and scholars. Mr. Hussein emphasised that the delegation, which represents the 750,000-strong Israeli Arab community, did not intend to have political discussions during its stay in Jordan. "Our discussions here will not be political at all," Mr. Hussein told the Jordan Times. "After congratulating His Majesty, we hope to meet with Jordanian leaders to reaffirm our brotherly relations," he said. Sheikh Azzam Al Khatib, an official of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs' Department in occupied Jerusalem, who is accompanying the delegation, said he was not aware of any plans for the group to meet with Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Earlier, a Palestinian source

Russia assails U.S. stand on arms sales to Iran

MOSCOW (R) — Russia condemned a U.S. Senate vote to cut off aid if it sold arms to Iran and indicated Friday that it would press ahead with a submarine deal. Foreign Ministry spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said the Senate's decision to link future aid to halt in arms supplies to Tehran was counter-productive. "We believe our sales of arms to Iran are even-handed and do not upset stability in the region. We do not make deliveries which can be used for purposes other than the legitimate defence of the recipient state," he told a news briefing. "Linking cooperation with Russia... with a question that should be the subject of normal diplomatic dialogue is, in our view, counter-productive and does not correspond to the long-term interests of Russia and the United States." The Senate, debating a 1993 foreign aid Bill containing \$147 million for the former Soviet Union, voted Wednesday to bar all but humanitarian assistance if Moscow sold arms to Iran. (see page 5)

S. Arabia accuses Qatar of exaggerating border clash

RIYADH (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia Friday accused Qatar of exaggerating what it called an accidental border incident and disputed its neighbour's account of the clash that killed two this week on the frontier. Qatar said Saudi forces killed two soldiers and captured one in an attack Wednesday on the Al Khofous border post in the disputed frontier region. Qatar said Saudi forces returned Thursday, seized the outpost and expelled its occupants. The official Saudi Press Agency, quoting an unidentified government official, said Saudi Arabia denied its forces seized the border post 130 kilometres south of Doha. Saudi Arabia also denied Thursday that its troops had attacked the outpost, saying the fighting was between Qatari bedouins and Saudi bedouins in an area inside Saudi Arabia. It said two Qatari and one Saudi bedouin were killed in the clash initiated by the Qatari bedouins. "We feel deeply sorry and surprised at all the... statements issued by our Qatari brethren, statements that do not serve the mutual interests of the two countries..." the agency quoted the government spokesman as saying. "The random accidents by irresponsible elements from both sides that occur from time to time, divorced from the official framework of both countries, should not rise to the level of affecting the deep ties and strong bonds that the two countries enjoy..." the spokesman added. The agency said the government said it wanted to settle differences amicably and asserted it will not deviate from that course as long as its rights are preserved. Qatar said Saudi forces returned to seize the outpost just hours after Qatar suspended a 1965 accord on their joint borders. The outpost is in a region claimed by both countries since British domination of the area ended in 1971. There have been no independent reports of what is happening along the border in a region ceded to Saudi Arabia by the United Arab Emirates two years ago. Persistent reports of tension in the region remained unconfirmed for several months, with officials from sides dismissing them as untrue.

Iran repeats claim West behind Gulf island dispute

NICOSIA (AP) — Accusing fingers pointed Friday by traditional rivals aimed to fuel fears of Iranian expansionism or Western conspiracies in a dispute over three Gulf islands. An Iraqi newspaper charged Syria was helping Iran maintain its occupation of the strategic islands claimed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE). A senior Iranian official repeated Tehran's claim the dispute is nothing but a Western conspiracy. "Everyone knows that Persian Gulf states are too weak to directly stand against Iran, and in fact it is the West that wants to block the way of progress for Iran through these conspiracies," said Mohammad Javad Larjani, a member of Iran's National Security Council. Last month Iran claimed sole sovereignty over Abu Musa, which it had administered jointly with the UAE. It also has asserted its control of the islands of Greater and Lesser Tunb, also claimed by the UAE. The islands are located near the Strait of Hormuz, gateway to the region that provides about 20 per cent of the world's petroleum. The territorial dispute is one of many in the region where the end

Ministry opens the door for registration of political parties

By Mariam M. Shablin Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — As the doors of the Ministry of Interior opened to receive registration applications from political parties in the Kingdom Thursday, four parties proceeded to the registration booths. Two pan-Arab parties, a communist party and a tribal-based political party submitted registration forms to the Political Parties Registration Department. The Arab Baath Socialist Party, whose secretary general Ahmad Najdawi was formerly close to the Baath Party in Iraq, was the first to register with 75 founding members. Mr. Najdawi, who arrived at the ministry at 8:45 a.m., said that he expected the ministry to go through the party's application papers in about one week. The registration department has 67 days to accept or refuse the application, according to the internal regulations. Applicants may appeal the decision if registration is refused. The Jordanian Communist Party, led by Dr. Yacoub Zayyadin, also applied for registration Thursday with 71 founding members. A breakaway communist group, led by Lower House Deputy Issa Mdanat, held its first conference this weekend but has not yet applied for registration. The Jordan National Alliance, a party founded by tribal leaders from central and southern Jordan, also applied on the first day of registration. Its leader Mijhem Khreike announced the foundation of the party in August. The fourth to apply for registration was the Arab Baath Socialist Party (United Leadership). The party, led by Mohammad Zoubi, is based on pan-Arab ideology. Mr. Zoubi was once close to the Syrian Baath Party. Many parties and groups from all parts of the political spectrum have been negotiating coalitions and mergers for the past months in order to boost party membership and financial support. Ministry of Interior officials say that they expect the older, more established political groups to apply for registration before some of the newer parties. Parliament legalised political parties after passing a draft law in July of this year. A Royal Decree subsequently approved the law on Sept. 1. The special department was set up in the Ministry of Interior to monitor and register all matters related to the parties. Governor Faisal Khasawneh was appointed head of the department last week. Jawdat Shoul, the minister of interior, said Thursday that the applicants would enjoy official party status after their applications had been studied and the department had ascertained that all the stipulations of the political parties law had been met by the applicants. Among the many stipulations requested of parties by the law are: A party must have 50 founding members; the members must have no record of criminal activity; the party must be locally funded; the party must respect the Constitution and political pluralism; and that the party be politically independent from any party, organisation or government outside of the Kingdom.

Jordan rejects as baseless 'arms-for-Iraq' report

AMMAN (J.T) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Friday rejected as baseless a claim by an American congressman that Jordan has sent arms to Iraq in February and March 1991. "These claims are just a repetition of earlier claims that were aired immediately after the Gulf war and everybody knew that they were baseless," the prime minister was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra. Sharif Zeid, former commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, said Jordan did not send any arms to Iraq after the end of the Iran-Iraq war in August 1988. Earlier, Information Minister Mahmoud Sharif also rejected the claim. "My first reaction to this is that it is the same (false) story that was circulated through the Gulf war," Mr. Al Sharif told Reuters when asked about remarks in a congressional committee that Jordan sent U.S. military aid to Iraq. "There may be further Jordanian responses to this later on," he said, adding that military authorities would have to provide any further information about U.S. shipments. Mr. Sharif said it had been proved "beyond doubt" that Jordanian arms shipments to Iraq which were the subject of earlier reports were sent through Saudi Arabia during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war. "I would obey, Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Sub-committee which deals with foreign aid, told a congressional committee Thursday that the United States continued to send military aid to

U.S.-Jordanian relations returning to track

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — The Bush administration is expected to release about \$20 million in frozen military aid to Jordan before the presidential elections in November against the backdrop of a continuous improvement in relations between Washington and Amman, diplomatic sources say. "The amount may not be much, but the very fact that the administration is unfreezing the aid is significant," said one of the sources. "It reflects an upturn in American-Jordanian relations and improves Washington's lobbying with other donors to provide help to Jordan." According to the sources, the administration will ensure that the assistance is released before the Nov. 3 elections, in which President George Bush is seeking reelection, but the move is more related to a meeting in Paris in mid-November of donor countries which will discuss economic aid to Jordan among other topics. "Obviously Washington wants to avoid the paradox that it is asking others to provide aid to Jordan while American aid to Jordan remains frozen," said another source. The source noted that the administration encouraged Germany and Japan to extend assistance to the Kingdom during the Gulf crisis, which strained Jordanian-American relations and led to the freeze in aid. Addressing the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee on Europe and the Middle East, Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian said Thursday that "inadequate" enforcement by Jordan of the international sanctions against Iraq was behind the decision to suspend military assistance and postpone joint military exercises. "Today... the situation is substantially different," said Mr. Djerejian. "Since late June, Jordan's enforcement of sanctions has tightened significantly. The Jordanian military has assumed an important role in the effort and Iraq has received correspondingly fewer embargoed goods through Jordan. We will continue to press Jordan to keep up their tightened performance and to improve it even more." Mr. Djerejian confirmed that the administration had made "policy adjustments in our bilateral relations with Jordan to reflect the changes in Jordan's stand and to encourage continued and further Jordanian efforts in this direction." "We recently conducted an air defence exercise with Jordan," he said. The obvious improvement in Jordanian-American relations was also linked by the Western media to what they describe as a Jordanian effort to distance itself from Iraq, particularly in view of meetings His Majesty King Hussein had with Iraqi opposition leaders in London two weeks ago. But Jordanian officials and analysts say there is little substance in the argument. "The essence of the London meetings was that the territorial integrity of Iraq should be preserved and the suffering of its people should be addressed," said one source. "It was not as if Jordan was 'realigning' itself with Iraqi opposition, as many reports suggested," added the source. "It is not a question of Jordan moving camps," said a well-placed analyst. "It has more to do with a gradual understanding by the U.S. as well as others that Jordan was not joining any camp when it opposed the military option to end the Gulf crisis but was only trying to avert a war and

Lawmakers, lobbyists criticise proposed F-15 sale to Saudis

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Lawmakers and lobbyists Thursday criticised the proposed sale of F-15 fighters to Saudi Arabia as a threat to Israel, but admitted they stand little chance of stopping the deal.

Critics, including Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Claiborne Pell, said President George Bush appeared to be rushing the \$9 billion sale through. And Sen. Paul Wellstone, a Minnesota Democrat, proposed delaying the sale until next year to give Congress more time to study the pros and cons.

But with a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress required to block the sale, there appeared little chance in the few remaining days of the legislative session that Congress could stop it.

Mr. Pell said it was "troubling" that the Bush administration failed to give lawmakers advance notice of the sale even though it constitutes the largest single arms sale in U.S. history.

"The sale would appear to undercut the United States' effort to control the spread of arms in the Middle East," Mr. Pell said. "There are serious questions as to whether or not this sale might upset the delicate military balance that exists between Israel and its Arab neighbours."

President Bush announced the sale last month at a campaign appearance in St. Louis where McDonnell Douglas builds the aircraft. Mr. Bush said the sale would save thousands of jobs for workers in Missouri and Connecticut, where Pratt and Whitney makes the engines for the fighter.

Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton said he

favours the sale as long as Israel maintains a military edge.

Industry experts estimate the sale would help preserve about 7,000 McDonnell Douglas jobs in St. Louis and 1,500 Pratt jobs in Connecticut. The aircraft would be delivered to Saudi Arabia and go into operation in three phases in 1996, 1997 and 1999.

Officials for the State and Defense departments told the committee that 48 of the 72 aircraft to be sold to Saudi Arabia would be capable of launching air-to-ground weapons. But they insisted that the purpose and makeup of the F-15s would be purely defensive.

Lee Feinstein of the Arms Control Association, said the F-15 sale would result in the United States "engaging in an arms race with itself," because Israel is already demanding a "compensation package" of military sales.

The proposed sale is consistent with President Bush's Middle East arms control initiative and will contribute to the overall stability of the region, senior administration officials told members of Congress.

Frank G. Wisner, undersecretary of state for international security affairs, and Carl W. Ford, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, answered congressional questions on the sale during a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing.

Outlining the president's Middle East arms control initiative, Ambassador Wisner stressed that the sale of F-15s is not inconsistent with U.S. efforts at limiting arms sales to the region.

Mr. Wisner said the guidelines for the arms control initiative are: sales to the region should be transparent; sales should be made to nations with proven records of responsibility; and the sale of weapons of mass destruction and their components should be eliminated.

The sale of F-15s to Saudi Arabia "meets those conditions," Mr. Wisner told the committee. "Legitimate defence for a responsible party is not inconsistent with arms control," he said.

Mr. Wisner asked the committee to view the sale in the context of regional stability and Saudi Arabia's strategic environment. Iran and Iraq pose "a real and immediate threat to the Saudis," he said.

While Iraq's military strength has been diminished, the Iraqi air force is still much larger than the Saudi air force, Mr. Wisner said.

Mr. Ford noted that the actual transfer of the aircraft would not take place until 1993 through 1999, adding that no one can predict what kind of threat Iraq will present in five to 10 years. He urged the committee "to take a longer view" on the question of the level of threat posed by Iraq to the region.

The sale of the F-15s would increase the Saudi air force's ability "to deter any party hostile to Saudi Arabia" and therefore reduce the need for the United States to be called upon, Mr. Wisner said. The sale would also increase interoperability of facilities, spare parts and the availability of American standards in the region and thereby improving the ability of the U.S. to defend the region if needed, he said.

Banker in Iraq case withdraws guilty plea

ATLANTA (AP) — A judge Thursday threw out an ex-banker's guilty plea to charges of secretly loaning \$5.5 billion to Iraq, three weeks into a sentencing hearing laden with political overtones.

Christopher Drogoul, the former Atlanta branch manager for Italy's government-owned Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL), instead will be tried on 347 counts of bank fraud. He pleaded guilty in June to 60 counts, but maintained he was made a scapegoat by top officials at BNL.

Federal prosecutors, who contend Mr. Drogoul was the sole mastermind of the complex loan scheme that helped fund Iraq's military, asked U.S. district Judge Marvin Shook to nullify the plea agreement. Mr. Shook agreed after Mr. Drogoul's lawyers, who two weeks ago unsuccessfully sought to withdraw the plea, gave their approval.

"Drogoul cannot have it both ways," said acting U.S. Attorney Gerilyn Brill. "He can't plead guilty, ask the court for leniency and project a public image of innocence. There is no middle ground."

But Mr. Drogoul testified that BNL executives knew of the loans and condoned them, then praised him for helping the bank earn a profit. He said Wednesday the support was so strong that he did not feel his job was in jeopardy after federal agents raided the Atlanta branch in 1989.

Mr. Drogoul's lawyer, Bobby Lee Cook, said the Bush administration also knew of the loans but allowed BNL to portray the ex-banker as a "lone wolf." Mr. Cook presented as evidence Wednesday a purported BNL summary of efforts by the banks to persuade then-Attorney General Richard Thornburgh and others to keep the focus of the fraud investigation only on Mr. Drogoul.

Mr. Cook suggested Thursday that the defence evidence might have been too much for the government. "I thought they (prosecutors) didn't want to hear the rest of Drogoul's story today. They seemed depressed yesterday," he told reporters.

Mr. Cook said he believed Washington put pressure on the U.S. attorney's office to withdraw from the plea agreement. Ms. Brill said the decision to ask Mr. Shook to drop the plea was made in Atlanta without outside influence.

"You might believe it, but I don't. I'm sure the (telephone) wires were burning last night in Washington," Mr. Cook said after the hearing.

The sentencing hearing was held amid scepticism from Mr. Shook that Mr. Drogoul acted alone and rising political criticism of Bush administration policies towards Iraq before the Gulf war.

Working through an Agriculture Department programme set up to promote grain exports, Mr. Drogoul devised a system of fake documents and hidden book-keeping to obtain billions of dollars in U.S.-guaranteed loans for Iraq, the indictment said.

Democratic vice presidential candidate Al Gore Tuesday accused Mr. Bush of helping the Saddam Hussein government by encouraging programme that helped build an Iraqi army that eventually went to war with the United States.

And congressional critics, particularly House of Representatives Banking Chairman Henry Gonzalez, a Texas Democrat, have long said BNL loans were a key link in the Iraqi military buildup.

A spokeswoman for Mr. Gonzalez said Thursday he had no comment on the withdrawal of the guilty plea.

U.S. missile hits Turkish ship; 5 killed

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. aircraft carrier accidentally blasted a Turkish destroyer with a missile Thursday during a NATO exercise, setting the vessel ablaze and killing at least five people, U.S. and Turkish military officials said.

Among those killed was the destroyer's commanding officer, Captain Kuntur Gungor, the Turkish general staff said.

At least 14 other Turkish sailors were injured, but there were no reports of U.S. navy casualties, according to the Pentagon and the U.S. naval command in Europe.

The aircraft carrier USS Saratoga accidentally launched two Sea Sparrow missiles, and at least one of the missiles struck the Turkish destroyer Muavenet, Admiral Mike Boorda, commander of U.S. naval forces in Europe, said in a statement issued in London.

He said the accident occurred in the Aegean Sea about 130 kilometres west of Izmir, Turkey, during the NATO exercise "Display Determination '92."

Jordan demands total halt to settlements

(Continued from page 1)

dad's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

He said Jordan was complying with Security Council resolutions and looked forward to putting an end to the consequences of the Gulf crisis by peaceful means.

But it wished to emphasise its desire for "action to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people and to preserve its territorial integrity as an integral Gulf entity."

Iraq has charged that the establishment by the United States and its main Gulf allies of no-fly zones over certain areas of Iraq threatened to "dismember the country."

It is in no one's interest... that Iraq be partitioned or that its people continue to suffer," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

Dr. Abu Jaber noted that Jordan has always followed a balanced approach, based on supporting right and justice and denunciation of violence and extremism.

"Jordan has, since its establishment, committed itself to the principles of right, justice, democracy, adoption of moderation and centrism in addressing internal and external life affairs. This

position has turned Jordan not an oasis of stability in the middle of a turbulent region, where extremism and ideology and physical violence are still leaving their impact. Perhaps the most important legacy of this policy is the introduction of a firm democratic system based on political pluralism," he said.

Dr. Abu Jaber voiced pride in the confidence conferred upon it, which was reflected in inviting it to participate in peacekeeping forces in a number of tension spots.

"Jordan, which believes in collective work, the United Nations' principles and in a world dominated by peace, security and stability, expresses pride in the confidence conferred upon it, by the invitations received to take part in U.N. peacekeeping forces in a number of tension spots—in Croatia and Cambodia," he said.

It is for this reason that my country stressed the need for supporting the U.N. to enable it perform its mission in enhancing world peace and stability ensuring the best welfare of people as clearly pronounced in its charter.

He called for establishing a just and durable peace based on international legitimacy. "We in Jordan

can believe that peace is an objective which our generation should seek to attain. Genuine and durable peace should be based on international legitimacy and should be comprehensive so that all generations would accept it and it should provide an incentive to all nations in our region." He added, "Justice, comprehensiveness and sustainability are the bases for peace in the Middle East."

He called for settling the dispute between Iran and the United Arab Emirates over Abu Musa Island and the Tunbs by peaceful means.

While stressing its firm positions regarding the inadmissibility of the acquisition of land by force, Jordan calls on both Iran and the UAE to reach a peaceful settlement to their dispute, through dialogue in line with the U.N. principles.

The foreign minister called on the U.N. to play an active role in protecting the world environment and safeguarding life on the Earth. He also called for establishing a balanced global economic system, set to upgrade the living conditions of all peoples on Earth. He called on the countries of the North to support the countries of the South to achieve genuine development whereby gaps and disparities are eliminated gradually.

Algeria links airport bombing to FIS

ALGIERS (R) — The Algerian authorities have arrested men suspected of bombing Algiers airport on Aug. 26 and an official source said Thursday leading members of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) were behind the attack.

The men arrested included Hocine Abdul Rahim, who once ran the office of imprisoned FIS leader Abassi Madani, and a Muslim fundamentalist pilot, with the national airline Air Algérie, named as Rachid H'achachnia, the official media said.

The official news agency APS said Mr. Abdul Rahim won a parliamentary seat for the FIS in the Algiers suburb of Bouzareah in a first round of elections in December.

The official source, quoted by APS said, "some leaders of the... FIS are directly implicated in the attack on Houari Boumedienne airport in Algiers."

It is the first time the authorities have blamed the FIS for the

bomb, which killed nine people and wounded 124 in the international terminal of the airport.

The FIS has already denied responsibility for the bombing.

"It is inconceivable that an armed resistance which bases its strength and legitimacy in the people could turn against those... who give it its life and reason for existence," it said in a clandestine statement shortly after the attack.

The authorities have blamed the movement for attacking the security forces, sabotaging the telephone and electricity networks and bombing and setting fire to public buildings.

They banned the FIS in March after weeks of fundamentalist protest at their decision to cancel the second round of general elections, which would have given the FIS control of parliament.

Underground opponents of the government have since launched a guerrilla war against the Algerian security forces, ambushing and killing about 140 policemen

and gendarmes.

APS said it did not know how many men had been arrested for the airport bombing but state television showed pictures of four bearded suspects, including Mr. Abdul Rahim and Mr. H'achachnia.

Mr. H'achachnia was a member of the Islamic branch of the pilot's trade union, the agency said.

The television named the other two men as Mohammed Rouabhi, a headmaster from the western city of Constantine, and Choucheine Said, the deputy chairman of a local council.

The official source said the authorities had irrefutable proof of a foreign hand behind the bombing, APS said.

He gave no details but Algiers accused Iran of meddling in its affairs after Tehran strongly criticised the cancellation of the elections. Algerian newspapers have also said the Sudanese government supported the FIS.

U.N. to send Canadian troops to Somalia

MOGADISHU (R) — The United Nations has reached a landmark agreement to deploy 750 Canadian troops in northern Somalia to protect relief workers from marauding gunmen.

The U.N.'s military chief in Somalia said that 750 Canadian troops would be deployed in the port of Bosasso after successful talks with the warlord in control of the region.

Brigadier-general Imtiaz Shaheen told Reuters late on Wednesday: "On Bosasso we have an agreement... in three to four weeks from now they (the Canadians) should be able to get in."

The Security Council... for the deployment of 3,500 U.N. troops in Somalia but has so far sent only 500 to the capital, Mogadishu, because of objections by warlord Mohammed Farah Aided.

The 750 Canadians are part of

the extra troops called for by the council. Austria, Belgium and Egypt have also agreed to send troops, Gen. Shaheen said.

Gen. Aided, who controls two thirds of southern Somalia, says that a large U.N. force will undermine Somali sovereignty but relief workers say his real objection is that it would weaken his military grip over several fiefdoms.

Fuelling between rival clans plunged most of the country into chaos after rebels ousted dictator Mohammed Siad Barre in January 1991 and made four million people dependent on food hand-

out. Relief workers say tens of thousands have died of hunger and two million face starvation unless aid agencies can stop looting and extortion by gunmen and get food to remote areas of Somalia.

Clashes have occurred between the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF) of warlord Mohammed Abshir Musa and a force of Islamic fundamentalists in Bosasso and other towns in the northeast but Gen. Shaheen said security in the area was now "far better."

An airlift of Pakistani troops into Mogadishu was completed Monday and Gen. Shaheen said they would start deploying in the port and airport and on relief convoys around the city between Oct. 7 and 10.

He told Reuters that more than 100 of his men would be deployed to create "an absolute zone of security" in the port and most other troops would escort truck convoys through Mogadishu. Canadian military guard the port and other key facilities and extort landing and docking fees from relief agencies or loot food, aid workers complain.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hana Mamour 750197
Dr. Yusef Samour 615648
Dr. Walid Mami 675485
Dr. Abdul Hadi Taha 620115
First pharmacy 610132
Ferdows pharmacy 670335
Al Amana pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Najla pharmacy 947632

IRBID:

Dr. Mohammed Sharra 773610
Al Sharra pharmacy 773623

ZARQA:

Dr. Issa Omar 901266
Ramsi pharmacy 995119

KARAK:

Dr. Ahmad Mahadin (—)
Mu'sab pharmacy 332170

SALT:

Dr. Abdul Razaq Ensur (—)
Bar's pharmacy (—)

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 6303418
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 801228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 960390
Public Security Department 62021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 871467
Ammunition 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 62021
Reprints 621010
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111

Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RU Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Al-Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 644412
Jahid Amman Maternity 642362
Mehes, J. Amman 636440
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Munir Hospital 667221/9
The Islamic, Abdali 665127/77
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 777111/26
Army, Merka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 622400/9
Amal Hospital 674153
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)800580
Rip Sima Hospital (09)987332

Al Fikra Modern Hospital (09) 990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)272555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
Rm Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 Amman, Singapore (RJ)
06:45 Dhaka (RJ)
08:30 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)

06:15 Colombo (RJ)
06:45 Beirut (RJ)
07:25 Cairo (RJ)
07:35 Istanbul (RJ)
08:00 Bangkok (RJ)
08:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
08:35 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
08:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
09:30 Madrid (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:30 Jeddah (RJ)
08:30 Paris (AF)
09:30 Rome, Beirut (AZ)
09:35 Cairo (MS)
09:45 Dubai (EM)
DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 Beirut (RJ)
06:30 Damascus (RJ)
07:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
07:35 Paris, Istanbul (RJ)
07:45 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
08:00 Cairo (RJ)
08:05 London (RJ)
08:30 Jeddah (RJ)
08:35 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
09:15 Amman, Singapore (RJ)
09:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:35 Cyprus (CY)

MARKET PRICES

Upset/price in Jds per kg.
Apple (red) 600/550
Banana 500/450
Bazma (Mekhemmer) 450/400
Beans 600/550
Cabbage 130/80
Carrot 400/350
Cauliflower 200/200
Cucumbers (large) 120/80
Cucumbers (small) 240/180
Eggplant 80/40
Garlic 600/500
Lemon 220/160
Marrow (large) 180/120
Marrow (small) 180/120
Onion (dry) 180/120
Pepper (hot) 200/150
Pepper (sweet) 150/100
Potato 340/250
Tomato 360/300
Fig 360/300
Grape 500/450
Black Grapes 300/250
Green Grapes 350/250
Dates 550/450
Okra 350/250
Parsley 80
Scent 80
Pumpkin 320/260
Spinach 300/250

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:30 Les Aventures de Bosco
18:30 Operation Mozart
19:00 News in French
19:30 Fenetre sur
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 News in Arabic
20:30 America's Funniest Home Videos
21:00 Previews
22:00 News in English
22:30 Mini Series: "Bonjour La Galere"

PRAYER TIMES

05:00 Fajr
06:25 (Suur) Dhuha
12:25 Dhuhr
15:40 'Asr
18:27 Maghrib
19:44 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzavanta Church Tel. 623366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623341

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assunta International Church Tel. 683326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 812255

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot and dry and winds will be easterly moderate, causing dust in desert areas. In Aqaba, it will be dusty, and winds will be northerly moderate to fresh and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 15/31
Aqaba 22/36
Djarsa 12/32
Jordan Valley 20/35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 22 per cent, Aqaba 41 per cent.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Hrawi congratulates King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday received a cable from Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, congratulating him on his recovery and safe return home. President Hrawi wished King Hussein good health so that to continue leading the country and as a supporter of inter-Arab solidarity and an advocate of the values of right, justice and security.

Prince Hassan receives British delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday received a visiting British delegation from the Royal Academy for Defence Studies. During the meeting Prince Hassan reviewed the situations in the region and the latest developments on the international arena. The meeting was attended by army chief of staff for Operations and Training, the British ambassador to Jordan and the British military attaché in Amman.

Crown Prince meets athlete

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Hassan has received Jordan's Tae Kwon Do champion, Ammar Fahd, who won a bronze medal at the Barcelona Olympics. Prince Hassan congratulated Mr. Ammar for his achievement and wished all Jordanian athletes progress and success in the various Arab and international sport events. The meeting was attended by Youth Minister Saleh Ishaideh, deputy Issa Al Abed Al Rimoni, and vice president of the Jordan Tae Kwon Do federation.

Prince Hassan chairs ATF meeting today

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will chair Saturday a meeting for the board of trustees of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) to be held in Amman. Prince Hassan will deliver an address on "the present Arab situation and future Arab hopes." The meeting will discuss a report by ATF's Secretary General Al Sayed Yassin on the forum's activities in the period 1990-92 and ATF's future plans. The meeting will also appoint a new ATF secretary general.

Moroccan envoy arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — An envoy from King Hassan II of Morocco, Prince Hisham Bin Abdullah, arrived in Amman Friday to congratulate His Majesty King Hussein on the occasion of his recuperation and safe return home. The Moroccan envoy was received at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Al Hussein and the Moroccan ambassador to Jordan.

Abu Jaber holds talks with Ghali

NEW YORK (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber met Friday with United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali and reviewed with him the Middle East peace process. Discussion at the meeting also centered on Jordan's role at the regional and international levels and its contribution to the U.N.'s peace keeping efforts in various parts of the world. Dr. Ghali inquired about the health of His Majesty King Hussein and asked Dr. Abu Jaber to convey to the King his best wishes of happiness and good health. The meeting was attended by Jordan's U.N. Ambassador Adnan Abu Odeh.

Abu Jaber, Bulgarian minister hold talks

NEW YORK (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber Thursday met with Bulgarian Foreign Minister, who is also president of the U.N. General Assembly's 47th session, and discussed with him the Middle East peace talks and situation in Balkan. The two ministers also discussed bilateral Jordanian-Bulgarian relations. The meeting was attended by Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations Adnan Abu Odeh.

Bataineh to attend WHO meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Aref Bataineh Thursday left for Cairo to take part in the 39th session of the World Health Organisation (WHO) East Mediterranean Regional Committee which will convene in Cairo Saturday (today). The five-day session will discuss health policies in the region and a special report on the health conditions of Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

CDD to offer training to Yemeni officers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Defence Department (CDD) Director General Afif Al Ghoul Thursday reviewed with Jamal Mohammad Al Shaalan, representative of the Yemeni Mineral Discoveries Corporation scopes of cooperation in the area of minimising the impact of natural disasters. The CDD concluded an agreement with the Yemeni cooperation under which the CDD will hold training courses for Yemeni civil defence officers on management of civil defence centres, preparations for countering natural disasters and minimising their effects.

Officials discuss preparations for ICCO meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Mayor Mohammad Al Bashir Thursday met with the Secretary General of the Islamic Cities and Capitals Organisation (ICCO) Abdul Kader Koshok, who is currently visiting the country to prepare for the 17th session of the board of directors of the organisation which will be held here from Oct. 6 to 14. Bashir said he agreed with Koshok on the arrangements and preparations for holding the meeting, and reviewed its agenda. The meeting will discuss a study on bases of architectural design and cultural planning in the various Islamic eras, and issues pertaining to security finances for constructing the organisation's headquarters.

POSITION VACANT

A newly established international environmental programme for NGOs in Jordan has the vacancy for:

Programme National Coordinator

(Female or Male)

With the following qualifications:

1. University degree in a scientific field, preferably related to environment.
2. Five or more years experience in the environment field or experience with development programmes that have conserved the environment.
3. Knowledge of the local NGO community and experience with NGOs development projects.
4. Fluent in spoken and written English.
5. Proven management and communication skills.
6. Experience in preparing such written materials as project summaries, implementation and evaluation reports.

Part-time job could be considered for highly qualified personnel

Qualified and interested Jordanian candidates should send their CV to:

P.O.Box 35286

not later than October 15, 1992.

Jordanians continue to celebrate King's return

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein Friday attended a march organised by the Arab University Graduate Women Club on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's recovery and safe return home.

The march proceeded from Amra Hotel to Al Orthodox Club, passing through the Sixth and Fifth Circles in Jabal Amman and continued to Abdoun area.

Participants in the march, carried Jordanian flags and pictures of the King, chanted songs praising King Hussein, and raised banners expressing support of his leadership.

At the end of the march, whose proceeds will go to purchasing a mobile health clinic for remote areas in Jordan, a festival was held at the Orthodox Club.

Other celebrations of King Hussein's recovery were held in various parts of the Kingdom.

In Balqa Governorate, a major celebration was held Thursday at Fuhes town under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Zein Bint Al Hussein.

Addressing the festival Fuhes Mayor Farouq Jrisat congratulated Princess Zein and the Jordanian people on the safe return home of King Hussein and wished him continued good health "to continue leading Jordan and building it as an oasis of security and stability."

The festival featured music performed by the Armed Forces music bands, debkas, folkloric dances and songs.

Another celebration was held in Zay village in cooperation with Princess Rahma College. The celebration included a march, which proceeded to the college

from Amman, speeches, poetry recitals, debkas and national songs.

On Saturday (today) Baqaa camp residents will hold a major celebration, and school students in Salt will organise a march Wednesday. Another major celebration will be held in Salt Wednesday.

Naour district Thursday held similar celebrations which included debkas and traditional dances. Citizens thronged the streets carrying Jordanian flags and pictures of King Hussein. Speakers at the festivities expressed allegiance to the King and voiced their happiness over his safe return home.

In Muwaqqar, a major festival was held to mark the occasion.

The celebrations, which were attended by Minister of State Jamal Kireisha, included poetry recitals, songs, debkas and traditional dances. In Sahab, a similar festival was held at Sahab Secondary School, and was attended by thousands of people. People carried pictures of King Hussein and Jordanian flags and toured the town's streets. In Ramtha, a major celebration was held under the patronage of Ramtha District Governor Mohammad Al Amad, who addressed the festival. The festival included debkas, national songs, folkloric dances, a public march, and poetry reading.

The University of Science and Technology also celebrated the occasion by organising a special celebration, including songs, debkas, and traditional dances.

Similar celebrations were held in Al Huss and Al Kura area in Irbid governorates and in Tafleh and Wadi Arabah.

Cultural week at Seville ends

SEVILLE (Petra) — The Jordanian cultural week at the Seville International Expo concluded its activities Friday. The week, which was organised by the national committee supervising the Jordanian pavilion at the expo, included shows by the Armed Forces Band, the Royal Jordanian Folk Troupe and Radio Jordan Troupe.

As the week coincided with His Majesty King Hussein's return home, the troupe organised the celebrations in front of the Jordanian pavilion in the streets of Seville, playing music, singing national songs and dancing dabkeh.

The troupe was joined in their celebrations by representatives of the Jordanian community in Spain, and the Arab-Spanish Society.

The Spanish army brass band also participated in these celebrations. As part of the week's activities, a seminar on the past, present and future of the Arab-Spanish relations was held at the Fortale Centre for Arab and Islamic Heritage.



Prince Mohammad celebrates 52nd birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein Friday celebrated his 52nd birthday.

Prince Mohammad patronised Friday a golf match organised by Al Dustour newspaper at Al Bisharat Golf Club Course to mark the occasion.

The Prince also attended the closing ceremony of a shooting competition organised by the Royal Shooting Club on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's safe return home, and the Prince's birthday.

Prince Mohammad was born on Oct. 2, 1940 and received his elementary education in the Scientific Islamic College in Amman. He pursued his academic studies in Switzerland and Britain and in 1956 joined the military college in Baghdad, for one year.

The Prince acted as Regent on several occasions. On Nov. 11, 1973, he was appointed personal representative of King Hussein.

Prince Mohammad assumed several posts, including president of the Jordanian Tribal Chiefs Council in 1971, president of the Higher Tourism Council in 1977. He is presently president of the Jordanian Shooting Federation, the Royal Shooting Club and the Jordan Chess Federation.

Prince Mohammad married Her Royal Highness Princess Taghrid on 22 March 1981. He has two sons: Their Royal Highnesses Prince Talal and Prince Ghazi.

Meeting says Japan, Germany not willing to get involved in region's conflicts

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab World should not expect much political involvement or support from Japan and Germany because the two countries are not willing to get entangled with local and regional conflicts, a statement issued by the Japanese-Arab Dialogue has said.

The two countries' interests are centred on technological and economic cooperation, the statement said.

The statement, published at the end of the two-day meeting which started in Amman Sept. 19, said that Arab states should realise that the main concern of Japan and Germany lies in the economic field, as they do not desire to be involved in regional, local or international conflicts.

The dialogue, the third of its kind to be organised, was sponsored by the Amman-based Arab Thought Forum (ATF) in cooperation with the Tokyo-based National Institute of Research Advancement (NIRA).

Participants from various Arab countries and Japan discussed a host of political, legal, economic and ideological matters that related to the so-called new world order and the world economic order as well as economic relations between Japan and the Arab World.

Arab participants discussed these topics and questioned Japan's role vis-a-vis the new world order, according to the statement.

It said that the Arab participants urged Japan to help the Arab World with its various problems through providing technology and through helping in the establishment of durable peace in the Arab region.

They demanded that Japan use its influence in the Group of Seven (G-7) to ensure world economic justice.

For their part, Japanese participants criticised the Arab regimes for their failure to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and to create suitable mechanisms and strategies for dealing with crises that might emerge in the future.

As to the situation in the Middle East, the Japanese participants said that their country would not try to promote its ties with Israel to an "excellent level" as long as it continues to occupy Arab lands. But, they warned that the Arabs can only rely on Japan for economic, trade, technological and environmental

cooperation, since Japan does not envisage any military or political role in solving conflicts.

The two sides, according to the statement, voiced criticism of the new world order for its selectivity and for failing to apply the same principles to all world conflicts.

What applies to the Arabs, the statement said, does not apply to Israel.

The meetings included a separate roundtable discussion on "Towards a New International Humanitarian Order" that reviewed topics such as the responsibilities of industrialised nations towards Third World countries.

In an address to the opening session, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan voiced Jordan's readiness to achieve cooperation and coordination with other countries at the regional level to serve the interests of all concerned parties.

"Rapidly changing global and regional configurations call for the need for a revision of moribund structures of international relations," the Crown Prince said in his keynote address.

The first Arab-Japanese Dialogue was held in Amman in Sept. 1989 and the second in Tokyo in Sept. 1991.

Lebanon, Jordan sign trade agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Lebanon have agreed to exempt part of their exchanged goods from customs duty and decided on other measures designed to promote trade between them.

The countries Thursday signed a new agreement on trade and economic cooperation which replaced an old one dating back to 1965.

Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour and Lebanese Minister of Economic and Trade Samir Maqdisi, who signed the agreement, were received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker after signing the agreement. The ministers briefed Prince Hassan, and Sharif Zeid on the new accord which, they said, would further bolster economic ties between Jordan and Lebanon.

Prince Hassan reviewed the provisions of the agreement with the two ministers and called for the adoption of measures that

would enhance trade and economic relations to safeguard the higher national interests of Lebanon and Jordan.

The two ministers also briefed the Prime Minister on the deliberations of the joint Jordanian-Lebanese economic committee which prepared for the agreement.

Sharif Zeid underlined the importance of further bolstering trade relations between the two countries.

Upon signing the agreement, Dr. Ensour said that the deal entails special clauses providing full exemption from customs duty of part of the Jordanian and Lebanese commodities exchanged between the two countries.

He said each country will be allowed to display national products worth up to \$5 million in trade fairs to be organised by either country in the other.

The minister said that the two

sides agreed to set up a joint committee to annually revise the agreement and to propose amendments aimed at further promoting trade exchanges.

The joint committee would convene every six months in Amman or Beirut to deal with difficulties that might emerge in the implementation of the agreement, the minister added.

Dr. Maqdisi voiced his country's deep satisfaction with the agreement saying that it would encourage further exchanges of industrial and agricultural products and open the way for organising trade fairs.

The Lebanese minister said that his country was hoping to benefit from Jordan's experience in certain economic fields, saying that Lebanon was currently preparing programmes for economic development and reconstruction following 15 years of civil conflict.

Dr. Maqdisi said that his country's industrial sector is gradually improving.

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
COMMODITY IMPORT PROGRAM (CIP)
ATTENTION: PRIVATE SECTOR IMPORTERS AND
LOCAL BANKS

Financing is again available under USAID's Commodity Import Program (CIP). Private sector Jordanian importers of U.S. made items are approved for CIP Letter of Credit financing on a first-come, first-served basis.

This financing is available at a minimum interest rate of approximately 7 percent, Jordan Dinars downpayment of 10 percent, and the balance payable in Jordan Dinars over periods as follows:

- 1- Up to two (2) years for raw materials.
- 2- Up to three (3) years for intermediate goods.
- 3- Up to five (5) years for capital goods.

To apply, importers should make applications to their local banks and request CIP financing.

For additional information, importers or banks may call USAID/Jordan at Tel No. 820101 and request to talk with CIP office Personnel (ext. 2627/2254)

FEMALE OFFICE OPPORTUNITIES

A Jordanian company, working in Industry, Real Estate, and Trading investment is seeking to employ energetic and highly motivated professionals for the following vacancies:

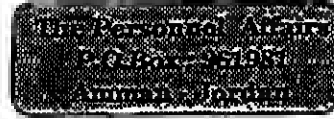
FEMALE OFFICE MANAGER

- University graduated preferably in business administration or economics.
- Excellent command in English and Arabic language.
- Preferable to have a good command in French language.
- Capable in making excellent presentation, public relation skilled and a good communicator.
- Ability to prepare reports.
- Good computer knowledge is an asset.
- Knowledge of the Jordanian Market is preferable.
- 3 - 5 years experience in related field.

FEMALE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- To operate in the management services action.
- Handling regular secretarial activities and reporting to the management.
- University graduated preferably in English literature.
- Excellent command in English and Arabic language.
- Good computer knowledge is an asset.
- 3 - 5 years experience in relative job required.

Please send detailed CV to the following address no later than 10th October 1992



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Price: JD 9 ++

FORTE



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Tue recognition of rights

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan's recent call on Amnesty International and other organisations to help explain Islam's position on human rights issues is a timely and serious proposal that warrants early response. The timeliness and relevancy of this call is linked to the confusion and misunderstanding of where the Muslim World really stands on human rights standards and principles as spelled out in the proliferating human rights conventions and treaties. Part of this misconception is attributed to age-old prejudices and biases against the Muslim faith. The greater part of responsibility, however, can be better and more justly attributed to wrong practices in many Muslim countries against human rights, and to vain attempts by some others to disassociate themselves from international norms in this field. Some Islamic and, needless to say, Arab countries have in fact gone to unreasonable extent in rationalising their departure from these human rights instruments and their interpretation on the grounds that they are in conflict with the Islamic tenets and teachings.

The absurdity of this human rights posture can be best explained by the fact that proper construction of the holy Koran would put Islam on top of the list of faiths and religions worldwide that adhere to the highest known standards on human rights. What all this boils down to is the perpetual misinterpretation of Islam due to the continuous and untenable closure of Bab Al Ijtihad. So the effort to illustrate in good faith where Islam stands on concerning human rights requires a two-pronged approach. First, the world in general and the West in particular must shed their old stereotype images of the religion that do not correspond to the truth. Second, the Muslim countries need to upgrade their true democratic standards and stop defending their violations of human rights, which are sometimes based on the false assumption that their religion prevents them from meeting their treaty obligations under such human rights conventions.

In this vein, Crown Prince Hassan's proposal to convene a high-level human rights meeting in Amman for this purpose is obviously an important step in the right direction. Such forum, which might be attended by eminent personalities would also offer an opportunity to build on last July's Amman conference by imams representing all the sects of Islam especially in the light of the agreement among them that they all share the same perspective on human rights principles. All that needs to be done now is to go one step further and declare that all Islamic sects are in agreement that there are no irreconcilable differences between Islam and the various international human rights that have become part of the international customary law.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily commented on a visit to Jordan by Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir Wednesday, noting that it added a new meaning to the already strong ties between Khartoum and Amman. The president came here to offer congratulations to King Hussein on his recovery after surgery in the United States, but the visit by itself also manifests the brotherly ties between Sudan and Jordan which were not marred by the consequences of the Gulf crisis or by the strained relations among the Arab states, the paper said. Jordanians and Sudanese feel proud of the fact that their relations and cooperation in a number of fields remained intact despite the rocking events that destabilised relations among other Arab states, said the paper. The leadership in Khartoum and Amman have remained committed to the Arab Nation's objectives and principles and have sought to further bolster ties between the two countries in every field, the paper continued. Despite their limited resources and despite the difficult circumstances facing them during the past crises, the two sides succeeded in maintaining very strong ties, added the daily. These facts and this practice and dealings among Arab brothers should serve as an example for the rest of the Arab countries and a call on Arab regimes to bypass their differences and embark on serious action towards safeguarding the higher Arab interests, the paper said. The paper said that Mr. Al Bashir's visit to Amman and Sudan's strong ties with Jordan and its people should pave the way for a wider scope of inter-Arab relations and convince the Arab-regimes that there can be no alternative to solidarity among Arab states in the face of the common challenges facing the Arab Nation.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily criticised the Egyptian authorities at Cairo Airport for mistreating Jordanian nationals upon their arrival in Egypt on visits to relatives and friends or as tourists. Fakhr Kassar said that the Egyptian security authorities have been harassing Jordanian passengers by holding them incommunicado for 24 hours in a small room, without food or water, and showering them at intervals with questions about the reason for their visit to Egypt. The security officers ask such questions as: Have you been to Kuwait, Did you go to Iraq? Why did you come to Cairo? Do you have your old passport? One Jordanian citizen answered all these questions satisfactorily, noting that he also had with him his old passport, but he was detained for some time by the authorities which allowed only his wife to go, he wrote continued. There is no other country in the world that subjects visitors to such questions and such inhuman treatment, he added. Egyptian nationals arriving in Amman are treated like Jordanians and are asked no such questions nor are they kept without food or water for 24 hours, the writer said. The Egyptian authorities realise too well that the Jordanian authorities do not treat the Egyptian nationals in a similar manner, but they still carry out shameful acts against the Jordanians, he added.

The West might evolve a new system for security

By Max Jakobson

HELSINKI — The diplomatic effort under way in Geneva to make peace in the former Yugoslavia has been dismissed by many commentators as a hypocritical manoeuvre to cover up the failure of the major powers to act in time to stop the bloodshed. A more charitable view is possible. The Geneva conference can be described as a first tentative attempt to work out a new concept of collective security better fitted to conditions in today's Europe than the system provided by the United Nations Charter and administered by the Security Council.

The U.N. system was born in a world that no longer exists. In May 1942, Franklin D. Roosevelt thought that the four major powers — the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union and China (France was added later) — should act together as "police-men" to keep the peace, as he told Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov in Washington. Smaller nations were to be disarmed, and if any one of them defied the policemen it should be bombed into submission. Two days later Molotov was able to report that Stalin wholeheartedly agreed with the plan.

It took almost 50 years for the Roosevelt-Molotov pact to be consummated. Iraq was bombed into submission in 1991. But Operation Desert Storm may have been the last of its kind. Of Roosevelt's five policemen, Russia is incapable of constructive action, China is immersed in its own problems, Britain and France are no longer world powers. The United States, too, is turning inward.

The U.N. model of collective security cannot be translated into present-day Europe. Which countries might the Europeans designate to act as policemen — Germany? Russia? To ask the question is to answer it.

The conflict in former Yugoslavia has revealed that little has changed in Europe since the days of Otto von Bismarck, the Iron Chancellor of Germany, who in December 1876 made his famous remark that Germany had no interest in the Balkan question "that was worth the healthy

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Israel's designs aim at separate deal with Syria, weakening of Arab position

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

JORDANIAN DAILY newspapers last week continued to give coverage to celebrations over the safe return by His Majesty King Hussein to Amman and columnists' commentaries. The dailies also discussed the Middle East talks, Iran's threats to the Arab Gulf states, Iraq and a host of domestic issues.

The people of Jordan have voiced their full support for the King's policies and national unity rather than backing fledgling political parties which run after their own interests, said Tabar Al Udwan in Al Dustour.

The columnist said that the tumultuous welcome accorded to King Hussein on Sept. 24 was a referendum on his policies which call for unity, continued endeavours to defend pan-Arab interests and not mere ideologies advocated by political parties in the Arab region.

Under the title "Our national unity is very much alive", Salameh Elkour in Sawt Al Shaab said that Jordanians of various walks of life went out into the streets and public squares rejoicing over the return of their King in a strong show of national unity and allegiance to the Hashemite throne.

The writer said that newspaper columnists ran side by side with articles by various citizens in the local dailies describing the scenes and voicing admiration of the King's policies and the national unity in Jordan.

practice that would further enhance national unity. He said that there were certain groups among Jordanians who try to appear in different stands and take up different positions depending on the circumstances, and their double standards are now appearing in the local press.

Discussing the Middle East negotiations in Washington, Sawt Al Shaab daily warned against another Camp David agreement, which would see a separate peace concluded between Syria and Israel, designed to take Syria out of the conflict.

The paper said that Israel has been focusing its attention on such separate peace deal with Syria with the aim of weakening the Arab position at the peace talks.

Salameh Elkour was particularly bitter about the outcome of the talks in Washington, noting that these talks have indeed achieved progress. But this kind of progress is detrimental to the Arab Nation's interest, said Elkour in Sawt Al Shaab. He noted that reports about an imminent agreement between Syria and Israel over the Golan and the acceptance of the Palestinian state to the so-called self-rule system in the occupied Arab lands were progressive steps in the eyes of the Israelis and the Americans.

Such moves are bound to win worldwide support for Israel and President Bush, he said. In the view of Sultan Al Hattab, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, the Arabs can improve their negotiating position with Israel only through their unity. He said Israel is seeking to conclude a separate peace deal

Clergy attack Saudi government

By Caryle Murphy

CAIRO — More than 100 conservative religious scholars in Saudi Arabia have called for major reforms of Saudi society in line with Islamic law, criticising the government and accusing it of failing to respect human rights, "hiding information" in foreign policy and giving billions of dollars in foreign aid to "atheistic" regimes.

The scholars made their demands in a 45-page "Memorandum of Advice" to King Fahd last July that surfaced publicly only in recent days. In it, they urged creation of an army of a half-million men.

They also demanded cancellation of military pacts that they said violate Saudi sovereignty; urged arms purchases from "a variety of countries, not from one particular country," and rejected "reliance on any foreign power, even in defense of Saudi Arabia."

The critics apparently referred to Saudi Arabia's reliance on U.S. help to turn back the military threat posed by Iraq's 1990-91 occupation of Kuwait.

The religious scholars also attacked the kingdom's foreign policy for accommodating "the interests of Western" governments, which the critics said was best shown in Riyadh's "compliance with the United States in making decisions, such as the decision to move ahead in the peace process with the Jews."

The 107 signers of the memo appeared to constitute what one source called "the radical wing" of Saudi Arabia's powerful and puritanical religious establishment. The ruling Sand family maintains power in what effectively is a careful coalition with that establishment, and cannot ignore its views. The July letter appeared to go much further than earlier petitions from religious scholars in demanding an increased say in political decision-making but gathered fewer signatures than the earlier letters, which were signed by as many as 500 religious scholars.

Since the Gulf war, when Saudi Arabia's normally closed society hosted more than a half-million U.S. troops, the government has come under increased attack by ultra-conservative Muslims who want a more fundamentalist society based on what they regard as pure Islamic principles.

While this fundamentalist constituency does not appear to have majority support among the country's eight million people, it is wealthy, has significant political weight, and is in a position to

embarrass the Sand family, whose political legitimacy is based on its claim to oversee a true Islamic society.

The July petition's allegations of human-rights abuses appears directed at the interior minister, Prince Naif Bin Abdul Aziz, King Fahd's brother. Prince Naif is responsible for prisons and for restricting what the government regards as dissent, including by religious scholars.

The petition's authors "dealt with the problems of the country with a very deep vision," said a Saudi dissident who expressed agreement with most of what the memo recommended. He said the group's demand for an independent judiciary, giving priority to relations with Muslim countries over the West, and for respecting human rights, were especially significant.

A copy of the memo was supplied to the Washington Post by Saudi opposition sources in London, who said King Fahd had refused to receive the letter from its authors. The document asserts that Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz, mayor of Riyadh, tried to persuade some of those who drew up the memo to drop the effort before it was completed.

After the group distributed the memo by hand and through the mail in Saudi Arabia, the Council of Senior Ulama, a government-appointed group of religious scholars, condemned it in a Sept. 17 statement that ran in Saudi newspapers and disclosed the memo's existence. The council charged the memo writers with "inventing and exaggerating" problems in the kingdom, and basing their account on ideas that are "contrary to reality," according to a translation of the statement in the London-based Middle East Mirror. The authors showed they were "totally ignoring the good points of the state, which may indicate ill intentions," the council said.

The July petition charged that there is a "wide gap" between the reality of Saudi life and the government's claim that it applies Islamic law in the country. It deplored "the total chaos of the economy and society, administrative corruption, widespread bribery, favouritism and the extreme feebleness of the courts." The authors said they wished to expose the kingdom's problems "despite Western media's attempts to show that the state is working towards freedom, democracy, and that the only obstacles are the Islamists."

The dissidents addressed alleged problems in 10 areas, first criticising, and then recommending solutions that usually were based on implementing Sharia, or Islamic law. They called for greater freedom for religious scholars, including an end to restraints on what they write, and permission for them to form "independent committees" free of the Saudi Interior Ministry.

Saudi embassies abroad "should be considered houses for spreading Islam," and should resist "the phenomenon of growing numbers of unvetted women being employed" in their facilities, the petition said.

Sharia should be the sole basis for Saudi laws, it said. "To resort to French penal law or civil Egyptian law... is totally unacceptable." This appeared to be a reference to long-postponed government attempts to bring Saudi civil and criminal codes closer to global norms.

On human rights, the authors complained that government, university and court employees have been fired, had their salaries frozen, or been sent "to far provinces" without just sentences "because they professed their Sharia opinion or spoke in defense of or against someone."

They demanded an end to "courts and instructions that suppress the people's rights to travel, that permit censoring of telephone calls and mail, or the searching of houses." Also, they sought the "absolute prohibition of torture by security and police," as well as "any behaviour that harms the dignity of an accused in order to get him to confess."

State security forces also "must not be allowed to hold a suspect for more than one night, nor be allowed to enter the suspect's house or prevent him from traveling, unless these security forces have permission from a Sharia judge," they added. Those whose civil or human rights have been violated should be able to obtain "financial and psychological compensation" and "to bring officials responsible to court."

The dissidents criticised the "purchase of bonds from international banks and the U.S. Treasury" and "borrowing from over 30 international banks at interest, which led to debts of tens of billions of dollars especially during the Gulf war."

They deplored the spending of "hundreds of thousands (in foreign aid) on atheistic countries, of which nothing worth

mentioning goes to deserving Muslims in these countries." Specifically, they balked at "promises to supply hundreds of thousands to the Baathist regime in Syria and to Egypt's secular structure," the giving of "at least" \$26 billion to Iraq during its war with Iran; the \$6 billion given to Jordan "under the pretext of strengthening its economy"; and \$3 million given to "the leaders of Algeria's coup" despite "the coup leaders' cruelty to the Algerian people and their refusal of Islamic law."

The dissidents attacked the Saudi government for picking up the expenses of the "Arab-Israeli peace conference" and for aiding Russia, and demanded that it cease "spending on useless activities such as sports, exhibitions on Saudi Arabia and building of palaces."

The petition said "the number of army officials is very small in comparison with the size of Saudi Arabia" and urged compulsory military training to create a "powerful army that corresponds with the vastness of the sacred land." It complained that, since the Saudi family unified the nation in the 1930s, no mission of jihad, or "holy struggle," had been "given to the army to spread the Islamic call," and said that confrontation with "the Jewish enemy (is) the greatest mission an Islamic army can be given."

The religious scholars' letter complained that "after the Gulf war, security and protection pacts were signed with unreliable countries, in addition to the large presence of foreign military personnel and weapons that have remained behind — something that could jeopardise Saudi sovereignty."

Saudi Arabia's government press, the petitions said, has lost the public's trust, leading "people to resort to the aggressive media of the unbelieving countries in an effort to obtain facts and truth." At the same time, the Saudi press joins Western media in referring to Muslims who press for Islamic causes as "extremists" in order to make them hated.

The memo made no reference to steps Fahd announced last February, including the creation of a 60-man advisory council and government guarantees for basic civil liberties. Fahd took the first step to set up that advisory council Sept. 16 when he named a former justice minister as its speaker — The Washington Post.

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Issue No. 18

Drawing of Oct. 2, 1992

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Holder of ticket No. 93264 Wins JD 3,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 400 each wins JD 40 93265 93274 93364 94264 03264 93263 93254 93164 92264 83264
Holder of ticket No. 43507 Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 250 each wins JD 25 43508 43517 43607 44507 53507 43506 43597 43407 42507 33507
Holder of ticket No. 00410 Wins JD 1,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 150 each wins JD 15 00411 00420 00510 01410 10410 00419 00408 00310 09410 90410
Holder of ticket No. 02503 Wins JD 1,200	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 120 each wins JD 12 02504 02513 02603 03503 12503 02502 02593 02403 01503 92503
Holder of ticket No. 22286 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 100 each wins JD 10 22287 22296 22386 23286 32286 22285 22276 22186 21286 12286
Holder of ticket No. 27038 Wins JD 800	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 70 each wins JD 7 27039 27048 27138 28038 37038 27037 27028 27938 26038 17038

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U.S. Senate passes bill on Israel aid

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate Thursday passed a \$14.1 billion foreign aid bill containing assistance for the former Soviet Union and loan guarantees for Israel.

Under the bill, approved by an 87-12 vote, the U.S. government would guarantee commercial loans to Israel of up to \$10 billion over five years to help it meet the housing needs of an influx of Jewish immigrants.

The guarantees, which entail no U.S. spending, had been held up by nearly a year because of a dispute over the former Israeli government's aggressive policy of building settlements in the occupied West Bank.

The bill, for the fiscal year that began Thursday, links much of the \$417 million in aid to the former Soviet Union to a pull-out of Russian troops from the Baltic republics and an end to arms sales to Iran.

This money includes \$50 million for agricultural commodities, \$50 million for scholarship and training programmes and \$10 million for private organisations.

It also contains an administration-requested \$12.3 billion increase in the U.S. quota to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is helping Russia reflate its economy.

The aid bill is to be reconciled with a House of Representatives

measure before being sent to President George Bush. Separate legislation authorising the IMF quota and a wide-ranging aid programme for Russia and other former Soviet Republics is expected to go to Mr. Bush next week.

In debate on the aid bill Wednesday, the Senate reacted to new reports of Serbian atrocities against Muslims in Bosnia by authorising the president to provide \$50 million worth of military supplies to Bosnia.

But first the United Nations would have to lift its ban on sending arms to the combatants in former Yugoslavia and U.S. allies would have to be prepared to join the aid effort.

Also in the bill is \$25 million to aid refugees in Bosnia and the former Yugoslav republics of Croatia and Slovenia.

The bill contains two abortion-related provisions that would provoke a Bush veto if they are not eliminated.

One would provide \$20 million to the U.N. Population Fund that the administration says should not get aid because it has programmes in China where the government is said to have coercive family planning and abortion policies.

The bill would overturn a 1985 U.S. policy barring aid to non-government family planning

organisations that provide abortion information.

In addition to the loan guarantees, the bill also contains the regular annual aid to the Jewish state of \$1.8 billion in military aid and \$1.2 in economic assistance.

Egypt, the second-largest aid recipient, gets \$1.3 billion in military aid and \$815 million in economic aid.

The bill includes \$200 million for the administration's Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, split equally between a multi-lateral investment fund and debt restructuring.

Aid to Eastern Europe and the Baltic states totals \$400 million but the bill provides no money for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Israel aims to weaken Arabs through divisions

(Continued from page 4)

defend their territory, and so they insist that the islands are Iranian.

Al Dustour daily said that Iran is acting in an arrogant manner and trying to expand at the expense of the Arab World. Tehran realises that the small Gulf states are no match for its power and so it is acting at will without being checked by the Arab Nation, said the daily.

It was hoped that the signatories of the Damascus Declaration, including the Gulf states, Syria and Egypt, would rally to support the United Arab Emirates in its drive to protect Arab lands, but the agreement seems to be only on paper, it said.

Regarding Iraq, a columnist in Al Dustour said that the Iraqi government has been implementing all U.N. resolutions but Iraq remains under siege. Mohammad Kawash said that the more Iraq shows its keenness to comply with Security Council resolutions, the more Washington escalates its campaign against the Iraqi regime.

He said that the sanctions on Iraq are bound to continue until the country totally succumbs to the will of the colonial powers and is subdued by the United States.

The United States administration seems to be intent on fragmenting Iraq to create weak entities unable to form a united power against Israel, said Sawt Al Shaab daily. For

this reason, said the paper, Washington continues to concoct one conspiracy after another to bring down the Iraqi regime and to weaken the Iraqi people.

Fakhri Kassar said in Al Ra'i that demands for democracy and political pluralism in Iraq cannot achieve any results as long as the opponents of the Iraqi regime remain allied with the United States and its agents in the region. The writer said that those calling for democracy are allies of the United States and its agents cannot be trusted. Therefore, he said, any democracy in this style would be unacceptable to the Iraqi people.

A columnist in Al Dustour said that the labour law should

be applied in full on all organisations and companies in Jordan, including the educational institutions. Mohammad Daoud said that certain institutions are still employing non-Jordanian academics at a time when the country abounds with holders of high university degrees, able to take their place.

The government ought to interfere and impose its full control on these institutions and force them to abide by the law, said the writer.

Taher Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, demanded that the government allow the local press to have full coverage of the ongoing trials of Al Nafeer group in the State Security Court. He said that the court is involved in a very

serious security and political case requiring full coverage in the press so that there will be no room for harmful rumours among the public.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab advocated the case of the complaints of the Ruseifa inhabitants who have been calling on the concerned authorities to remove the garbage dump from their area.

The mayor of Amman, Mohammad Al Bashir, has promised that the dumping site will be removed away from the town following years of complaints by the local residents who have been subjected to bad smell and psychological torture, said Ahmad Dabbas. The writer said that the Ruseifa residents have the right to pure air to breathe and they are still waiting for the mayor to honour his promise.

U.S.-Jordan ties returning to track

(Continued from page 1)

Bush in Washington, shortly after leaving the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, following surgery in late August. The meeting was described by officials as very warm and friendly, signalling a new turn in Jordanian-American relations.

The White House meeting followed Saudi and Egyptian gestures indicating a turnaround in Jordan's relations with the Arab allies in the American-led anti-Iraq coalition.

Jordan is in a "unique" position now, having "good relations with both camps," said the Jordanian analyst, pointing out that the first foreign visitors to Jordan after the return home of King Hussein on Aug. 24, were Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan and Sudanese Leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir — representatives of two countries which are not in the good books of the West.

"Jordan has always maintained well-balanced relations with all countries and these relations transcended all occasional misuses," said the analyst.

Many diplomats admit that there is

a better understanding of the Jordanian position although their governments do not necessarily agree with it.

"Given the visible and invisible factors that prevailed, it is difficult to see how Jordan could have behaved differently during the Gulf crisis," said a European diplomat. "That does not mean that we supported Jordan's policy although we sympathised with the Kingdom."

Regardless of this argument, said the analyst, Jordan "has proved itself to be a stabilising factor in the volatile Middle East and that democracy has become a permanent feature in its life: these two factors are the main reasons behind the improvement in its external relations."

Jordan's predictions that "the weakening of Iraq" in the Gulf war would lead to "gaping holes" in the regional security system are being borne out now, as seen in the row between Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over three Gulf islands and last week's flare-up between Qatar and Saudi Arabia over borders, he said.

Israeli Arab delegation arrives

(Continued from page 1)

said Mr. Arafat was due in Amman and could meet the delegation on Sunday.

"We are expecting Abo Ammar in Amman in the next 48 hours," said the source.

Israeli law forbids Israeli citizens from contacting any member of a "terrorist" organisation — a description that the Jewish state applies to the PLO.

The government of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is known to be planning to amend the law, but the actual move has been delayed after Mr. Rabin said it would encourage Washington to resume its dialogue with the PLO — something the Israelis wish to avoid.

King Hussein is scheduled to receive the delegation on Saturday.

Sheikh Tawfiq Assaikh, head of the religious appeals court in West Jerusalem and a member of the delegation, expressed hope that the ongoing Arab-Israeli peace process would bear fruit "so that all the people of this region could live happily and safely together."

The visit of the delegation, the highest-level Arab-Israeli team to come to the Kingdom, is arranged by the Ministry of Aw-

qaf and Islamic Affairs, which still maintains a department in occupied Jerusalem despite Jordan's severance of legal and administrative links with the occupied West Bank.

The delegation members, who possess Israeli passports, travelled to Jordan on special documents furnished by the Jordanian authorities at the bridge across the River Jordan. Such documents are issued to Israeli Arabs transiting through Jordan to perform the annual pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina or in special cases of visits to sick relatives.

Issues related to the annual transit of Israeli Arab pilgrims to Mecca and Medina are also expected to be discussed during the delegation's stay here. The group includes the head of a pilgrimage committee of Israeli Arabs.

Mr. Hussein, who has assumed a leading role in establishing communications between Israeli peace groups and Palestinian leaders and in efforts to defuse inter-Palestinian violence in the occupied territories, said he was very happy to visit Jordan.

"It is indeed very moving to be among our Arab and Muslim brethren, after a long period of separation," he said.

Jordan rejects 'arms-for-Iraq' report

(Continued from page 1)

Jordan after announcing it had suspended such shipments during the Gulf war.

He said a General Accounting Office report said arms such as aircraft and tank spare parts and missile components worth \$550,000 were delivered to Jordan between February and March 1991.

Mr. Obeid claimed classified information which he could not disclose showed that some U.S. military aid sent to Jordan "found its way into the hands of Iraq" during the U.S.-led war over Kuwait.

The report by the government spending watchdog released by the Wisconsin Democrat said State Department actions to suspend military aid to Jordan during the war because of its sympathy for Iraq were "not very well implemented."

American-Jordanian relations improved dramatically this year from a low point during the war after the Kingdom moved to tighten adherence of U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

Washington last month resumed military exercises with Jordan, suspended in anger over alleged sanctions-busting.

PLO says interim deals acceptable

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Rabin called such talk premature.

The invitation by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres came in a speech to the 47th General Assembly and indicated Israel is ready to give up some of the Golan Heights, in exchange for peace.

"We have made clear to the

Syrians that U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 contain a territorial dimension, combined with other aspects of peace and security, which must be equally respected," Mr. Peres said.

"The leaders of both countries should be directly involved in these negotiations, which are in need of new approaches and creative thinking."

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Al Wihdat loses 4-0 to UAE team

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's Al Wihdat lost 4-0 to the United Arab Emirates' Al Wasl club in an Asian Clubs' championship match played at Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid. The result came as a shock and surprise to Al Wihdat's coach and players who prior to the match had voiced their optimism although they knew they would be facing tough and experienced opponents.

Al Wasl totally dominated the first half with their relentless attacks and were crowned with

success in the 26th minute when Faded Khamis scored his first goal.

Al Wasl continued to attack with teamwork effort depending on fast passes while strengthening their defence.

Al Wihdat's Ibrahim Sa'diyeh, Rafeh Al Hassanat, and Jihad Abdul Mun'em repeatedly tried to equalise but were soon stunned by a second goal by Khamis in the 40th minute.

Al Wihdat's Yusef Al Shammari and Yusef Al Amouri managed to assist their teammates attacks which lacked effective finishing.

Al Wihdat played in a more coordinated manner in the second half. However, Al Wasl's superior fitness enabled them to resist the forays and secure their goal.

Hisham Abdul Mun'em tried once to score from well behind the penalty box but Al Wasl goalkeeper Adel Anas did a perfect job to abort the attempt.

Al Wasl's Zuhair Bakhit seemed to put an end to Al Wihdat's hopes of equalising when he scored the third goal in the 32nd minute after he got an accurate pass from a sudden counterattack.

Abdul Mun'em lost his team

most definite chance when he hit a slow ball that struck the pole.

Al Wasl's Omar Sultan topped his team's big win with a fourth goal in the final second of the match.

The match was attended by Minister of Youth Saleh Irshaidat and the UAE's ambassador to Jordan and over 10,000 fans who supported Al Wihdat in their first-round match of the Asian Clubs' Championship.

The second leg of the first round will be played Oct. 9 in Dubai when Al Wihdat will have a very difficult task of securing a win with a minimum four goal difference to qualify to the second round.

St. Jovite poorly drawn

PARIS (Agencies) — Chief Irish hope St. Jovite looked likely to be knocked off his favourite's perch after being poorly drawn for Sunday's Prix De L'Arc De Triomphe.

With middle numbers generally considered best, the Irish Derby winner was drawn 17 of the 18 runners Friday, prompting backers to rethink.

ST. Jovite has been an uneasy 11-4 favourite for European Horse racing's end of season spectacle because of the possibility of soft ground which would be against the colt.

The draw will come as an added disappointment to connections.

Last year not favourite Generous was drawn 14 of 14 and ran well below expectations to finish eighth. In 1990, Salsabil, drawn 21 of 21, also started favourite only to finish a well beaten 10th.

It now looks as if the English-trained unbeaten filly User Friendly, drawn right in the middle at nine, may be the backers' choice.

Of the other leading fancies in Sunday's 18-strong field, Epsom Derby winner DR. Devinus was drawn six, French Oaks heroine Jolypha two and last year's Arc runner-up Magic Night seven.

Hill fastest at end of tyre testing

ESTORIL, Portugal (R) — Briton Damon Hill, the official Williams test driver, was the fastest after three days of tyre testing at the Estoril circuit Thursday.

Hill clocked a best time of one minute 14.19 seconds to eclipse new Williams colleague Alain Prost of France, who recorded a second-best time of 1:14.80.

Three-times world champion Prost was confirmed as a member of Williams' 1993 line-up on Sunday before the Portuguese Grand Prix, won by world champion-elect Nigel Mansell of Britain in a Williams.

Mansell is quitting Formula One at the end of the year to go Indy car racing in North America with the Newman-Haas team.

Michael Schumacher of Germany, driving a Benetton, was third fastest ahead of Briton Mark Blundell.

Magic's \$14.6m salary is largest

INGLEWOOD, California (AP) — Magic Johnson signed a \$14.6 million one-year contract extension with the Los Angeles Lakers, the largest single-season salary in team sports.

Johnson, 33, retired on Nov. 7, 1991, after he was diagnosed as having the virus that causes AIDS, but came back to play for the gold medal-winning U.S. basketball team at the Barcelona Olympics.

A source, speaking on the condition he not be identified, said the deal guaranteed Johnson \$19.6 million through the end of the 1994-95 season. Johnson, who on Tuesday announced he was returning to the NBA following the one-year layoff, already was under contract for this season and 1993-94 at \$2.5 million per year.

Johnson's one-year salary in 1994-95 surpasses \$9.4 million average that Patrick Ewing of the New York Knicks will earn under an extension he signed last November for the 1995-96 and 1996-97 seasons. Ewing's extension, when added to his current contract, guaranteed him \$33 million over six years.

Johnson expects to play 50-60 games this season, but his future beyond is uncertain.

"This extension is something that (Lakers owner) Dr. (Jerry) Buss said he would do long ago, but Earvin didn't want to announce it until after he made

his decision whether or not to play," Lakers general manager Jerry West said in a statement. "The extension has nothing to do with Tuesday's announcement and is something that we were going to do even if it didn't come back to play. It's just another example why Dr. Buss is the best owner in professional sports."

Johnson said he'll be examined often by doctors who say they don't know just what the grind of professional basketball would do to a man with Johnson's medical condition.

"It's time to go back to work. It's time to have some fun," Johnson said when he announced his return.

Johnson was the most valuable player of the NBA All-Star game last February and helped the United States win a gold medal in the Olympics this summer.

It was that success and the lack of additional medical problems that convinced Johnson to return.

"Earvin is ecstatic about the contract," said Johnson's agent, Lon Rosen, who gave no details of the contract. "He's grateful that Jerry Buss has agreed to do this and he hopes to bring a championship back to Los Angeles."

Johnson is the NBA's career leader in assists with 9,921 and was the league's MVP in 1987, 1989 and 1990.

Stuttgart draw Rangers in European Cup

LONDON (R) — German champions VfB Stuttgart were drawn against Glasgow Rangers in the European Cup second round Friday, but face a day's agonising wait to see if UEFA throw them out of the tournament.

Leeds could take their place in an all-British clash if UEFA officials decide to expel Stuttgart for fielding an ineligible foreign player in Wednesday's round tie.

For the sake of the draw, the European soccer union said the result of the Leeds-Stuttgart match would stand pending a decision by their control and disciplinary committee in Zurich Saturday.

Stuttgart, who won the tie on away goals, could be disqualified or forced to play a deciding match after including four foreign players in their side for the second leg in breach of UEFA's rules allowing only three in squad.

Stuttgart admitted to Europe's governing body UEFA that it had four non-German players on the pitch during Wednesday's 4-1 defeat by Leeds and spokesman Dirk Lips said they hoped UEFA would be lenient and opt to play a third leg.

If Stuttgart are eliminated and Leeds play Rangers in the first leg in Glasgow Oct. 21, it will be the first time English and Scottish champions have met since Liverpool beat Aberdeen on the way to winning the European Cup in 1981.

Reigning European champions Barcelona, who could only manage a 1-0 aggregate first round win over Norway's Viking Stavanger, were drawn against CSKA Moscow, away in the first leg.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Maradona to play league match Sunday

SEVILLE (AP) — Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona said he would make his Spanish League debut last weekend for F.C. Sevilla, the club that bought his transfer last week from Napoli for \$7.5 million. The 31-year-old striker, who returned to soccer Monday in an exhibition match after being suspended 18 months ago for drug use, will be in the starting lineup when Sevilla, coached by Carlos Bilardo, plays its first-division match Sunday at Athletic Bilbao. "I'm going to play in Bilbao. Carlos asked me if I wanted to play and I said 'yes'," Maradona said. Maradona practiced well Thursday with Sevilla. "If he keeps playing the way he did today, he won't have any problems at all," Bilardo said.

Artyomova becomes first Russian to get life ban

MOSCOW (R) — Natalya Artyomova, world number one over 1,500 metres last year, has become the first Russian track and field athlete to be banned for life. The ban was imposed after she tried to take the results of a dope test, ITAR-TASS news agency said. The Russian Athletics Federation had initially banned her for four years for failing the test after the mile race at the Bislett Games in Oslo in July. But TASS quoted federation chairman Valentin Balakhnevich as saying 29-year-old Artyomova had tried to deceive doctors at the games by substituting the blood sample she had given. Artyomova was reported to the International Amateur Athletic Federation in July on suspicion of trying to dodge the test.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
AND TAMARA HIRSCH
©1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

LEARN FROM THE MASTER

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ 5 3

♥ 8 5 2

♦ 10 7 4

♣ A K Q 8 3

WEST

♠ Q J 10 9 8

♥ 7 5 4 3

♦ K 5

♣ J 10 9 8

SOUTH

♠ A K

♥ A K Q

♦ J 9 8 8 3

♣ 7 4 2

The bidding:

South West North East

1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

We have said it before: Bill Root

is, arguably, the world's best bridge

teacher. Now the magic of video

tape allows you to sit in for two

hours on three of the master's

classes, *Squeeze Play*, *Throw-in*

Play and *Duplicate Tactics*, at a

bargein price (Bill Root Teaches

Bridge II, RO-HA Video Enterprises,

Box 7206, Concord, N.H. 03301,

\$39.95 post paid). Root has the

knack of bringing seemingly irre-

levant subject matter into every-

one's grasp.

There is no bidding given for this

hand from the lesson on *Duplicate*

Tactics, but it could have gone as

shown. With five probable tricks,

North should forget about point

count and make a value bid.

After the lead of the queen of

spades, declarer can count five fast

tricks in the major suits, so four

tricks in clubs will suffice for the

contract. The rubber bridge player

has no problem. South simply plays

a club early, and scores nine tricks

even though the suit breaks 4-1.

That's the wrong play at duplicate,

as Root points out. The queen

trick in clubs is a trap. If West

shows out, declarer ducks in dummy

and settles for nine tricks. If West

follows, declarer plays for a 3-2 club

break by riving with the king. A next

step, easy to overlook, and the difference

between an average board

and a top.

South Carolina hopes to lure Olympians

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AP) — Sometime next year, the nations planning to compete in the 1996 Olympics will receive an encyclopedia of training sites for athletes before the Atlanta games.

Mayor Bob Coble hopes some of the countries will turn no farther than the letter "C," which is where they'll find his city — Columbia.

While no one knows how many communities will be listed, Coble is sure the state's capital city "will stack up very well."

The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games will compile the encyclopedia and send it to the 184 countries expected to compete in the games. Each nation's national Olympic committee will decide where it will train. Coble expects Columbia to begin "serious" discussions with some of those committees early next year.

"We plan to be very aggressive," said John Durst Jr., chairman of the city's Olympic Organizing Committee.

Coble and Durst showed some of that aggression when they flew to Atlanta to hand-deliver to the ACOG the city's proposal to be a pre-Olympic training site for up

to seven sports and an undetermined number of countries.

The city's three-volume proposal includes a detailed description of the facilities at area universities and colleges where athletes could train and live.

It also contains information on how the city will foot the bill — public money would be "used only as a last resort" — along with the area's climate and geography.

The third volume is filled with more than 100 letters from individuals — including Gov. Carroll Campbell — and groups who support the plan.

"We want a good cross section of countries," Coble said. "We want countries like Germany, where we can establish economic ties. But we want countries from all over so that every part of the globe will be represented."

The ACOG had set an Oct. 1 deadline for those communities interested in being a training site. But that deadline was extended to Nov. 15, spokesman Bob Brennan said.

Brennan said he had no idea what Columbia's chances were or how many communities would seek to be a training site.

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"We'll have enough money left over to go out to dinner at our favorite gumball machine."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TADPA

IXOCT

SARGYS

BONKER

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

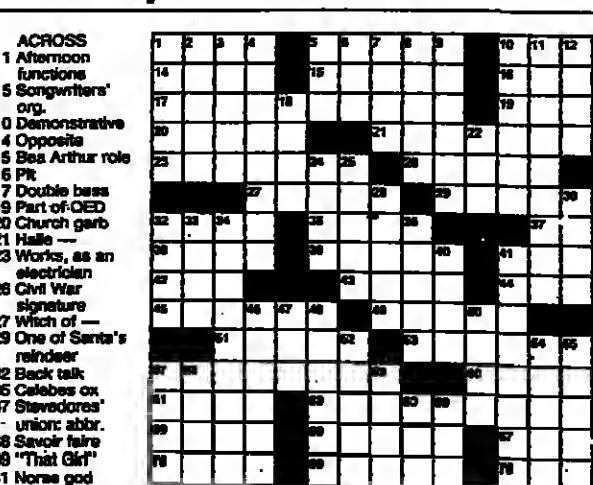
Answer here: FOR HIS

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FOIST CRAWL BOYISH EFFACE

Answer: 'He often gets more than at other times, but seldom this—LESS'

THE Daily Crossword by George Ughuet



Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers:

1. Austin psychiatrist

2. Shiprock

3. Propositions

4. Baseball

5. 12-Jal

6. He hit 61 in '61

7. Thinker to — to

8. 19 Propositions

9. Domestic

10. 12-Jal

11. He hit 61 in '61

12. Thinker to — to

13. 19 Propositions

14. Domestic

15. 12-Jal

16. He hit 61 in '61

17. Thinker to — to

18. 19 Propositions

19. Domestic

20. 12-Jal

21. He hit 61 in '61

22. Thinker to — to

23. 19 Propositions

24. Domestic

25. 12-Jal

26. He hit 61 in '61

27. Thinker to — to

28. 19 Propositions

29. Domestic

30. 12-Jal

31. He hit 61 in '61

32. Thinker to — to

33. 19 Propositions

34. Domestic

35. 12-Jal

36. He hit 61 in '61

37. Thinker to — to

38. 19 Propositions

39. Domestic

40. 12-Jal

41. He hit 61 in '61

42. Thinker to — to

43. 19 Propositions

44. Domestic

45. 12-Jal

46. He hit 61 in '61

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48. 19 Propositions

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63. 19 Propositions

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65. 12-Jal

66. He hit 61 in '61

67. Thinker to — to

68. 19 Propositions

69. Domestic

70. 12-Jal

71. He hit 61 in '61

72. Thinker to — to

73. 19 Propositions

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 10/2/92	TOKYO CLOSE 10/2/92
Sterling Pound	1.7850	1.7445
Deutsche Mark	1.4113	1.4237
Swiss Franc	1.2350	1.2458
French Franc	4.7745	4.8230**
Japanese Yen	119.90	120.38
European Currency Unit	1.3860	1.3715**

* USD Per ECU
** European Opening for 10/3 a.m. GMT

Barter/Trade Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.12	3.21	3.25
Sterling Pound	9.00	9.00	8.75	8.44
Deutsche Mark	8.93	8.87	8.87	8.50
Swiss Franc	6.81	6.81	6.81	6.65
French Franc	14.00	12.00	11.00	9.50
Japanese Yen	4.12	3.84	3.78	3.68
European Currency Unit	13.06	12.25	11.25	10.50

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollar 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Practical Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	348.70	6.70	Silver	3.76	0.09

* 10 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 1/10/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.674	0.676
Sterling Pound	1.1776	1.1835
Deutsche Mark	0.4723	0.4747
Swiss Franc	0.5403	0.5430
French Franc	0.1394	0.1401
Japanese Yen*	0.5600	0.5628
Dutch Guilder	0.4207	0.4228
Swedish Krona	0.1257	0.1263
Italian Lira	0.0541	0.0544
Belgian Franc	0.02309	0.02321

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Date: 1/10/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7590	1.7710
Lebanese Lira	0.02695	0.02895
Saudi Riyal	0.1794	0.1810
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2500	2.2900
Qatari Riyal	0.1826	0.1836
Egyptian Pound	0.2008	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7180	1.7360
UAE Dirham	0.1826	0.1836
Greek Drachma*	0.3579	0.3779
Cypriot Pound	1.5880	1.5980

* Per 100

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	29/9/92	Close	30/9/92
All-Share	151.80		152.95
Banking Sector	116.06		117.71
Insurance Sector	159.35		161.30
Industry Sector	197.40		197.75
Services Sector	219.57		220.28

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.7405/15	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.2510/15	Canadian dollar	
	1.4165/75	Deutsche mark	
	1.5930/80	Dutch guilders	
	1.2390/2400	Swiss francs	
	29.23/27	Belgian francs	
	4.7825/25	French francs	
	1230/1239	Italian lire	
	119.65/70	Japanese yen	
	5.3200/300	Swedish crowns	
	5.7600/700	Norwegian crowns	
	5.4800/900	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	\$348.10		

Ex-Soviets flock to Dubai for business tips

DUBAI (R) — Trade delegations from the former Soviet Union are flocking to Dubai, hoping to emulate the emirate's booming free-trade zone.

A combined trade delegation from Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan is in Dubai to investigate whether the Jebel Ali free-trade zone could be replicated back home, members of the delegation said. Possible sites include Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odessa or Nakhodka on Russia's eastern seaboard, delegation member Anatoly Yasko said.

The establishment of a free-trade zone "could be one way forward for our economies," he added.

Regulations governing Jebel Ali permit 100 per cent foreign ownership of firms and waive corporate taxes and export duties.

Two more delegations are expected within a month while officials from Armenia and some other former Soviet republics have already made the trip.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHARJAH
TELEPHONE: 640270 / 640276

ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (24/09/1992 - 30/09/1992)

COMPANY'S NAME

TRADING VOLUME

PRV. CLOSING PRICE

OFFERING PRICE

CLASING PRICE

JORDAN ZINC BANK

JORDAN ZINC BANK

JORDAN ZINC BANK

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Jobless claims soar

U.S. manufacturing shrinks

WASHINGTON (R) — A sharp deterioration in manufacturing prospects and soaring claims for unemployment benefits have fired speculation about quick interest-rate cuts to spur the nearly stalled U.S. economy.

The Commerce Department said that new construction spending in August slumped at the sharpest rate in nine months, mainly because so many offices and industrial buildings were built in the 1980s that many now sit empty.

Economists said the trio of bleak economic figures show a feeble recovery that is teetering on the edge of a new slump because consumers are so fearful for their jobs they will buy goods and services and fire up activity.

"It's premature to say we've already moved into another downturn but the recovery has definitely slowed substantially and the risk now is much greater that the economy will contract than it is that it will improve," said Lynn Reaser, an economist with First Interstate Bancorp of Los Angeles.

New unemployment figures for September scheduled for publication Saturday are widely seen as a potential trigger for the Federal Reserve Board to ease interest rates once more as a stimulative measure.

Wall Street economists forecast another 115,000 jobs will be lost on top of 83,000 that disappeared in August.

The most discouraging report came from the National Association of Purchasing Managers, front-line buyers of goods for the nation's factories, who said their index fell to 49.0 per cent last month from 53.7 per cent in August.

A reading above 50 per cent indicates manufacturing is expanding and one below 50 per cent that it is contracting.

Hundreds of thousands of manufacturing jobs were lost during the nine-month recession that lasted from the third quarter of 1990 through the first quarter of 1991. Painfully slow expansion since has not come near making up the loss.

This week, giant computer company IBM said it was slashing 40,000 jobs this year and cutting back manufacturing.

The Labour Department said that another 429,000 people filed applications for jobless benefits in the week ended Sept. 29.

"The recent initial unemployment claims data indicate that a major deterioration is taking place in the labour market," warned analysts at Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette Securities Corp. in New York.

Ms. Reaser said she still was forecasting expansion in gross domestic product at about a 1.5 per cent annual rate in the third quarter, rising to 2.3 per cent in the final quarter of the year, but conceded the increase might be scaled back.

According to reports released Tuesday, the sputtering U.S. economy is on the verge of stalling again and consumer confidence is fading.

The index of leading indicators, designed to forecast economic activity three to six months ahead, fell 0.2 per cent in August, the Commerce Department said.

That followed a slim 0.1 per cent rise in July and a 0.3 per cent fall in June.

Separately the Conference Board, a private business research group, said its consumer confidence index sank in September for the third month in a row to 56.4, compared with 59 in August.

The group said the confidence index is far lower than it has been before other recent presidential elections, which could bode ill for President George Bush.

The group said that since the survey was launched 20 years ago, the incumbent president has lost whenever the index has been below 100 just before the election.

Bill Clinton has hammered Mr. Bush on the state of the economy, calling his economic management the weakest since the 1930s as the country continues trying to recover from a painful recession.

"The nation's sluggish economy and weak job market are continuing to dampen consumer spirits," the Conference Board said.

"The economy is just in a state of stagnation right now," said Daryl Delano, an economist with Cahners Economics Inc. in Newton, Massachusetts. "It still has a slight push, but it's very hard to find and there are no positive signs of momentum building."

Another economic analyst was even more bleak.

"The August leading indicators show that the economy again has stopped growing," U.S. Chamber of Commerce economist Lawrence Hunter said.

Only three of 11 measures in the leading index were positive in August. Ironically, the main one was consumer expectations followed by higher stock prices and more plant and equipment orders.

"If the best we can do is to get an uptick in consumer expectations then we're really in bad shape because we know the level of expectations is very low," said Mr. Delano.

The Commerce Department said last week that gross domestic product — the value of all goods and services output in the United States — grew at a weak 1.5 per cent annual rate in the second quarter.

That was barely half the 2.9 per cent rate in the first three months this year and far below the level needed simply to absorb new labour-force entrants and to keep unemployment from growing.

Gulf banks reportedly withdrawing from international markets to home

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Gulf banks are becoming stronger and more profitable and the number of financial institutions in trouble this year is well down from 1991, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) says.

The weekly oil industry newsletter said in its annual survey of banking in the Gulf region that 33 banks showed a return on average equity of 10 per cent or more in 1991, compared to 25 the year before.

The survey underlined the recovery by the region's financial institutions in the two years since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and in the aftermath of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International collapse in 1991, the world's biggest banking scandal in decades.

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ment bank, its profitability remains high," it pointed out.

MEES added: "In the light of the generally healthy state of Gulf banking, it is ironic that Gulf banks are rapidly becoming irrelevant in any banking markets except their own. Gulf banks have retreated back across their domestic borders and are focusing on, to an increasing extent, on their home markets."

It listed the three leading Gulf banks as the Arab Banking Corp. (ABC) of Bahrain, the National Bank of Kuwait (NBR) and the Saudi American Bank (SAM-BA), saying they were "profitable, financially sound and well managed."

"Some other banks score more highly than ABC, NBR and SAMBA according to certain individual criteria, but they do not have the combination of strengths displayed by these three," the newsletter said.

"Investcorp, which is traditionally ranked as one of the region's most dynamic institutions, has yet to prove that it has not been seriously affected by the downturn in the U.S. and European mergers and acquisition market, although as an invest-

ment bank, its profitability remains high," it pointed out.

MEES added: "In the light

Red Cross evacuates PoWs; mortar attack in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — The Red Cross has evacuated hundreds of former prisoners of war to safety in Croatia, and one of the freed PoWs described brutal beatings meted out by Serbs in a detention camp.

Meanwhile, United States and U.N. officials said the airlift to besieged Sarajevo will resume soon.

In northern Bosnia, the International Committee of the Red Cross mounted a convoy of 35 buses and ambulances to evacuate more than 1,500 prisoners released from a Serb-run detention camp and escort them to safety in Croatia.

The convoy Thursday was reported to be moving without incident toward Karlovac, Croatia, and some vehicles crossed the border after nightfall, U.N. officials said.

One former detainee, Emir Alic, in his mid-20s, said he had seen guards beating numerous prisoners at the Trnopolje Camp where he had been held since May 24.

"It's hard to kill someone by beating them, so you can imagine what animals they are," Mr. Alic said before police removed an Associated Press reporter from the bus.

The warring factions in Bosnia-Herzegovina agreed at a London peace conference in August to close down detention camps. Pictures of starving inmates and tales of atrocities in some camps shocked the world.

Fighting broke out in Bosnia after Muslims and Croats voted on Feb. 29 to secede from Serbia-led Yugoslavia. Serbs rejected a break with Belgrade, and their militia forces have captured two-thirds of the republic.

International efforts to stop the fighting have so far failed, and attempts to alleviate suffering also have stalled.

In Washington Thursday, acting U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said the airlift to besieged Sarajevo will resume after a month's hiatus. He said the warring parties gave "general assurances of free flight, no attack," but there was still concern about forces "who may not be under anyone's control."

Relief flights were suspended

on Sept. 3 after an Italian military cargo plane was shot down.

Mr. Eagleburger initially said the airlift would resume Friday. But in Geneva Friday, Ron Redmond of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said there wasn't time to organize the resumption before Saturday or Sunday.

The U.N. agency is coordinating aid to war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina. The United States was one of 19 nations that participated in the airlift during the two months it operated last summer, flying 200 tonnes of food and other relief supplies into the besieged Bosnian capital, Mr. Redmond said.

Agency officials have expressed fears that hundreds of thousands of people could die in Bosnia this winter because the relief effort has fallen so far behind.

In Sarajevo, the Health Ministry said Thursday that 13 people had been killed and 186 wounded in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the previous 24 hours, including two dead and 39 wounded in the capital.

The casualty toll was considerably lower than in recent days. But later Thursday, a mortar attack hit the new town district, and doctors in Kosevo Hospital reported one dead and 10 wounded.

Heavy fighting erupted in northern Bosnia, according to the Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency. It said Serb forces were trying to widen a corridor connecting Serb-occupied regions in Bosnia and Croatia with Serbia, and there was intense fighting near the towns of Maglaj, Zavidovići and Tesanj.

Allegations of massacres on both sides occur almost daily in Bosnia. More than 10,000 people have died in the fighting, and more than 1 million have fled their homes, either voluntarily or in the internationally condemned practice of "ethnic cleansing," in which one ethnic group drives another out.

Meanwhile, Yugoslavia's Foreign Minister said Thursday that his country and Croatia have agreed to have their airports monitored to make sure they do not send warplanes into their skies over Bosnia-Herzegovina.

On a voice vote, senators said



A Sarajevo resident prepares for winter with wood from the destroyed National Library.

Ilija Djukic also urged all the warring factions in Bosnia to agree to station U.N. observers at their airfields, and said the grounding of warplanes should begin when relief flights to Sarajevo resume.

"By what I learned yesterday and this morning, there is a possibility that already tomorrow some planes will fly, and next week the full-scale flights," Mr. Djukic said.

Relief flights were suspended on Sept. 3 when an Italian cargo plane approaching Sarajevo was shot down with a heat-seeking missile, according to investigators.

Mr. Djukic said that Yugoslavia's premier, Milan Panic, "asked for observers to be stationed in all airports in Yugoslavia — military, non-military — so that everybody can see whether planes from Yugoslavia are participating in the Bosnian war."

In a separate development, the Senate voted Wednesday to authorize U.S. military aid to the battered state of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

On a voice vote, senators said

the current arms embargo on the region is serving only to maintain a military imbalance in favour of Serbia, which has more than 1,000 tanks, armoured vehicles and artillery pieces.

The lawmakers adopted an amendment to the 1993 Foreign Aid Bill offered by Democratic Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, calling for the United Nations to exempt Bosnia from the arms embargo. The president would then be authorized to transfer to Bosnia up to \$50 million worth of weapons and other military equipment from Pentagon stocks.

The provision was far from becoming law, however. The \$14.1 billion aid bill still must go to a House of Representatives-Senate conference, where the Bosnia provision was seen as likely to be dropped.

The overall aid bill provides economic, development and military aid to U.S. friends and allies around the world.

Among major provisions are a five-year, \$10 billion loan guarantee for Israel to use in absorbing a flood of Jewish emigrants from the former Soviet Union, and authority for \$12 billion in new lending for the International Monetary Fund.

On a voice vote, senators said

Perot is back in the race

DALLAS (AP) — Ross Perot transformed the presidential campaign from a two-sided shooting match into a three-way battle and immediately set about mounting an unconventional White House bid.

Rejoining a field he once led before fading in the summer, the Texas businessman seemed uncertain just how to proceed with what he promised would be "a serious campaign focusing on the issues."

"That'll unfold day after day," the Texas billionaire told reporters Thursday, announcing his candidacy just 33 days before election day.

"Nothing's organized. It's all happening so fast," confessed his son, Ross Jr.

But the elder Perot said he was ready to mount an advertising blitz, telling reporters as he left his news conference: "Got to go to work, got to earn a living, got to pay for ads."

Mr. Perot wasted no time, reserving two half-hour blocks of prime network television time next week, according to a report in Friday's editions of the Dallas Morning News.

Perot's wife, Margot, and running mate James Stockdale, a retired navy vice admiral and Vietnam war hero, said they anticipated going on the campaign trail.

Mr. Perot's rivals continued to set their sights on one another as the impact of the Texas's candidacy — and the shape it would take — remained uncertain.

"I think my fight is with George Bush," Democratic candidate Bill Clinton told reporters. Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Mr. Perot "deserves to have an opportunity to

run," but added that the campaign would continue to focus on Mr. Clinton "as the front-runner."

Both the Bush and Clinton camps have said Mr. Perot would be welcome to participate in presidential debates.

Orson Swindle, chairman of Mr. Perot's United We Stand, America Organisation, hailed news that Bush and Clinton negotiators had reached an agreement in principle late Thursday for three debates.

"I think Mr. Bush and Mr. Perot will square off pretty decently. I think Clinton will be the loser," Mr. Swindle said.

Mr. Perot's independent candidacy added an element of intrigue to the race that had been stagnant in recent months, with Mr. Bush consistently trailing Mr. Clinton in the polls.

"Anything that tosses this race up in the air and is an unknown is a good thing for Bush," said Republican pollster Bill McInturff.

At the same time, Mr. Perot's candidacy could work to Mr. Clinton's advantage in certain states where the Texas appears to draw most of his support from the president.

"It certainly boosts the chances of Mr. Clinton carrying Texas," said University of Texas Professor Walter Dean Burnham, who studies voting behavior.

Mr. Perot, who once ran evenly with Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton in national polls, is a distant third.

A poll released Thursday by CNN and USA Today gave Mr. Perot just 7 per cent support, compared with 52 per cent for Clinton and 35 per cent for Mr.

Bush. The survey of 1,052 registered voters had a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

Two recent polls taken in Michigan and Ohio showed that Mr. Perot was far behind those two states, battlegrounds of the industrial Midwest. Both polls showed Mr. Perot with support from just 9 per cent of those surveyed.

Mr. Perot, however, insists he's in the race to win.

"My objective is not to commit political suicide," he said, adding that he would discuss solutions to the nation's problems that the major parties deem politically risky.

His plan for economic recovery includes higher income taxes for the wealthy, fewer tax breaks for home mortgages, higher Medicare premiums and increases in federal excise taxes on gasoline and cigarettes. Mr. Perot also prescribes sharp cuts in government spending.

The target of some blistering news accounts about his business dealings earlier this year, Mr. Perot chastised reporters at one point for practicing "gotcha" journalism.

Mr. Perot said he would "not spend one minute answering questions that are not directly relevant to the issues that concern the American people."

Top aides said Mr. Perot would concentrate heavily on paid advertising and television appearances.

Mr. Perot's re-entry cheered thousands of supporters nationwide.

"I'm thrilled to death that our politics won't go to the gutter," said Mary Moine, a Perot campaign volunteer.

Column

Frozen sushi triggers ministry debate in Japan

TOKYO (R) — Two Japanese ministries are dissecting a national delicacy to determine whether cheap American-made samples should be allowed into the country. The shipment of sushi — a slice of fish on a rice ball — is languishing in a cold store while the ministries try to decide whether it infringes a ban on rice imports, a spokesman for the importer said Thursday. Japan forbids such imports on the grounds that it needs to be self-sufficient for national security reasons. It allows imports of semi-processed rice products. An Osaka-based restaurant operator, Sushi Boy, imported 960 pieces of sushi from its California factory, sparking a fierce debate between the Finance and Agriculture Ministries on whether the sushi is "rice" or a semi-processed rice product. A product is not classified as rice if it contains less than 80 per cent rice or if it has to be processed first. The Finance Ministry has no qualms about allowing the frozen sushi to be imported, the spokesman for Sushi Boy said. But the Agriculture Ministry maintains the sushi without the fish is just a ball of rice, he said.

Sex offenders may face chemical 'castration'

SYDNEY (R) — Plans for the "chemical castration" of sex offenders, proposed by Australia's Northern Territory government, have won public backing and are likely to be introduced, a government official said. "We're getting indications that the community would want the government to do it," said Mike Dale, a spokesman for Attorney-General Daryl Manning. The conservative government has proposed that courts in the territory be empowered to compel violent sexual offenders to be injected with depo-provera. Medical practitioners say the drug reduces men's sex drive by between 30 to 60 per cent. A spokesman for manufacturer Upjohn Co in Australia said the drug was normally used as a contraceptive injection for women which lasts three months. Under the territory's plan, the injections would be part of a two-year counselling programme which sexual offenders would have to undergo. "You get the feeling that communities are looking for different ways to deal with sexual violence," Mr. Dale said. "I wouldn't be surprised if other states of Australia apply it." The drug, considered experimental in men and in limited use since the 1960s, causes drowsiness, weight gain, headaches and increased blood pressure in the short term.

London robbery nets Duchess of Windsor gems

LONDON (R) — Jewellery worth millions of pounds, including designer pieces made for the Duchess of Windsor, has been stolen in one of the biggest ever such robberies in Britain, tracing experts said. The experts in tracing stolen artworks said the collection of jewellery by famous designers had been reported missing after a robbery in London last month. Police confirmed that a "quantity" of jewels had been taken from an exclusive district of London on Sept. 18 but would not comment on the value of the gems or on reports that the owner is a member of a Middle Eastern royal family. "We are unable to discuss the matter further at the loser's request," a police spokesman said. The theft came to light after details of the missing gems were entered on the art loss register, designed to keep a check on the lucrative trade in stolen art works by alerting dealers to purchased items which could come on the market. Officials from the register said the robbers made off with 250 or so pieces of jewellery including works of famous designers such as Boucheron, Van Cleef and Arpels — making it one of the biggest jewellery robberies in Britain.

Poachers killing off Zimbabwe's rhinos

HARARE (R) — Poachers are killing off Zimbabwe's rare black rhino, cutting their numbers to less than 500 from an estimated 2,000 four years ago, a wildlife conservation group said. "It has become all too obvious that our rhinos have undergone a poaching onslaught of catastrophic dimensions and that urgent action is now absolutely essential," the Zambesi Society said in a statement.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Georgian planes hit rebels in Abkhazia

MOSCOW (R) — Georgian planes bombed rebel positions in the breakaway region of Abkhazia Friday in some of the fiercest fighting of the six-week conflict, a Georgian government spokesman said. The separatists and allied tribesmen from southern Russia seized half of Gagra, main town of northern Abkhazia, and street fighting was continuing, he said. The spokesman, speaking to local journalists in the German capital Thibisi, quoted the military commander of Gagra as saying six Georgians had been killed and 82 wounded since the Abkhazia side launched an attack on Thursday afternoon. It was the first time planes had been used in the fighting.

Yeltsin streamlines government

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin issued a promised decree Friday streamlining his Russian government to promote free-market economic reforms. The lengthy decree, published by ITAR-TASS News Agency, abolished 170 ministers — for Industry and Architecture — and axed a long list of governmental committees dealing with everything from soldiers' welfare to oil refining. It also created a series of new state committees, including one for industrial policy and another for the chemical and oil industry. The cuts, agreed at a cabinet meeting on Tuesday and detailed in advance by a presidential spokesman, represented Mr. Yeltsin's most decisive move yet to cut through layers of Soviet-era bureaucracy encumbering Russian government.

Mitterrand reshuffles cabinet

PARIS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand appointed new budget and agriculture ministers Friday in a cabinet reshuffle triggered by the election of two ministers to the Senate (upper house). Government spokesman Markin Malvy was appointed budget minister, replacing Michel Charasse, who moved to the Senate. Centrist Jean-Pierre Sussieux was appointed agriculture minister, replacing Louis Mermaz, who became minister for relations with parliament. In other changes, Socialist Senhuk Gilbert Bhumet was named as junior minister for trade and artisan industries, and Andre Billardon, who ran the Socialist "yes" campaign for last month's referendum on the Maastricht treaty, entered the government as junior minister for energy.

Bomb explodes in S. African homeland

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A car bomb exploded Friday in Bishu, capital of the politically-volatile black homeland of Ciskei, the South African Press Association news agency reported. The agency, quoting state radio, said there were no further details of the explosion in the capital of the small Indian Ocean territory. The reported blast occurred almost a month after at least 28 African National Congress (ANC) supporters were shot dead by Ciskei soldiers during an HNC march to demand that Ciskei's anti-HNC ruler military ruler free political activity.

Mandela arrives in Pakistan

KARACHI (AP) — African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela arrived Friday on the first leg of a 13-day trip to Pakistan and China. It is Mr. Mandela's first visit to both countries, which have no formal ties with the South African government. Pakistan does not recognise the government in Pretoria and has barred all diplomatic, economic and cultural contact with South Africa. However, Pakistani government officials have said that policy is under review. After a brief arrival ceremony comparable to those given to heads of state, Mr. Mandela and his 12-member delegation visited the mausoleum of Mohammad Ali Jinnah, who fought for the creation of an Islamic homeland for Indian Muslims in the 1947 partition of the subcontinent. Mr. Mandela made no comments to reporters but wrote in the visitor's book: "A very moving ceremony, which has given us much strength and hope. A source of tremendous inspiration to all those who struggled against all forms of racial oppression."

Ciskei might prosecute soldiers for massacre

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Ciskei's military government has refused to criticise homeland troops who killed 28 African National Congress (ANC) marchers last month.

It said in a statement the conduct of soldiers would be investigated, and the black homeland's deputy attorney general confirmed murder investigations had started.

But the homeland government blamed the ANC for the Sept. 7 massacre, which drew international condemnation.

"Members of the Ciskei Defence Forces were placed in a position where they, under the circumstances, were obliged to open fire," the statement said.

The homeland's top judge, meanwhile, said in a report the ANC provoked the shootings and that soldiers overreacted.

Chief Justice B. Pickett said a large portion of blame rested with the ANC for leading protesters away from an agreed-on march route. But he called the shooting by Ciskei forces excessive and unwarranted, and blamed the reaction on a lack of professionalism.

"The weakness in the background of the Ciskei Defence Forces ... obviously contributed to the seriousness of the situation," Judge Pickett's report said.

On Wednesday, a South African judicial commission said Ciskei

kei soldiers should be prosecuted for the killings, calling the blood-bath "morally and legally indefensible."

The commission led by Supreme Court Justice Richard Goldstone also criticised ANC official Ronnie Kasrils for exposing marchers to the "danger of death."

The ANC responded to the goldstone report by saying no action would be taken against Mr. Kasrils.

"If there was any error of judgment, this was a collective decision of the leadership of the ANC and its allies for which we bear collective responsibility," it said.

The ANC also said future marches and protests would adhere to guidelines set up by Judge Goldstone's panel and a national peace accord.

The Ciskei massacre increased the tense political climate in South Africa. But the ANC and South Africa's white government have since held political talks aimed at restarting multiparty negotiations on ending apartheid.

In a separate development the South African government said Friday it will propose legislation restricting the production of weapons of mass destruction.

A statement by the Department of Trade and Industry said the law would keep South Africa in line with an international trend toward disarmament.

Parliament rejects Czechoslovakia breakup without referendum

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — Parliament struck a surprise blow against the breakup of Czechoslovakia Thursday by narrowly defeating a bill that would have let Czechs and Slovaks split without first holding a referendum on the question.

Polls say less than 40 per cent of Czechoslovakia's voters want the country divided into independent Slovakian and Czech states. Political leaders plan the breakup anyway.

But in a dramatic showdown in the federal parliament, legislation to allow a quick split fell seven votes short of passing. The vote was 173-92, with 21 abstentions.

A three-fifths majority, or 180 votes, was needed for approval. Then, in a further challenge to supporters of quick dissolution, parliament passed a resolution calling on a commission to prepare legislation for a future "Czech-Slovak union" in which the two republics would coordinate economic and defence poli-

cies. According to the resolution, the proposed "union" would have a president, legislature and governing council, but most power would be passed to separate Czech and Slovak parliaments.

The resolution needed only a simple majority of those present to pass 143-47, with 61 abstentions and 23 deputies not voting.

The result was a bitter and unexpected defeat for Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus and Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar, who agreed after winning June elections that their republics would become fully separate states in 1993.

It appeared that some Slovak deputies from Mr. Meciar's party had voted for the union proposal even though they are members of the governing coalition, and Mr. Klaus was angry when he appeared in a late-night television debate.

The Czech leader accused Mr. Meciar's party of "destabilising

the situation" by supporting the idea of a "caricature" state.

Mr. Meciar's ally, parliament speaker Michael Kovac, rejected the accusation and said the country needed a law to divide the federation's assets before the final relationship between Czechs and Slovaks is decided.

It was not immediately clear what would happen. But one possibility is that the Czech or Slovakian parliaments would pass their own bills breaking up the country — ignoring the federal parliament. Another possibility would be a peaceful secession of one republic from the federation.

The defeat of the bill changes nothing in Slovakia's resolve to leave the federation," said Ivan Gasparovic, speaker of the Slovak parliament, according to the Czechoslovak News Agency (CSTK).

"The federation is falling apart whether we like it or not, the point is to find a smooth and

quiet mechanism for its dissolution," Mr. Klaus said after the vote. He accused his opponents of "wanting" nothing except creating chaos.

Ever since the bloodless revolution in 1989, Czechs and Slovaks have differed over post-Communist reforms. The more affluent, Western-minded Czechs want a sharp turn to a market economy. Slovakia — home to much of the country's heavy industry — seeks a slower, less painful transition.

Speaking almost identical languages and living in one country since 1918, Czechs and Slovaks have no history of hostility and their split was expected to be peaceful.

But the surprising defeat has cast doubts over the possibility of forging a political consensus in both parts of the country.

Mr. Klaus and Mr. Meciar want the fast and smooth division to allow the two independent re-

publics to join European political and economic organisations without major delay.

But opposition deputies have accused the government of moving too swiftly and disregarding popular democracy.

"Such an important issue as splitting the country must be decided by citizens and no one else," Ivan Fiser, a Social Democrat said.

Some leftist deputies went as far as criticising the proposed split as "another Munich," referring to the division of Czechoslovakia and German occupation in World War II.

Former Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel said late Wednesday the defeat of the bill would put the federal assembly in a "difficult situation."

"It could even happen that the federal parliament would vanish without adopting any law on terminating the federation," Mr. Havel said.